INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

CITY OF WHITTIER
MURPHY RANCH LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL FIELD LIGHTING PROJECT

Lead Agency:

City of Whittier
13230 Penn Street
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 567-9999

Project Proponent:

City of Whittier
Public Works Department
13230 Penn Street
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 567-9500

Environmental Consultant:

Phil Martin & Associates
2987 NW Fairway Heights Drive
Bend, Oregon 97703
(949) 454-1800

October 19, 2022

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PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. **Project Title:** Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting Project

2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** City of Whittier
   Public Works Department
   13230 Penn Street
   Whittier, CA 90602
   (562) 567-9500

3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Kyle Cason, Director of Public Works
   (562) 567-9500
   pubwks@cityofwhittier.org

4. **Project Location:** The project is located in the City of Whittier (City) as shown in Figure 1, Regional Map. More specifically, the project proposes to install 11 permanent lights for the two baseball fields at Murphy Ranch Park that is located at located at 7550 Colima Road (A.I.N. 8291-005-900), in Whittier, CA. The location of the baseball fields are shown in Figure 2, Vicinity Map. An aerial photograph of the baseball fields and the surrounding area is shown in Figure 3, Aerial Photo. Figure 4 shows the topography at the baseball fields.

5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** City of Whittier
   Public Works Department
   13230 Penn Street
   Whittier, CA 90602
   562-567-9500

6. **General Plan Designation:** The project site is designated Open Space by the Envision Whittier General Plan.

7. **Zoning:** The project site is zoned O-S (Open Space) as shown in Figure 5.

8. **Description of Project:** The project site totals approximately 4.0 gross acres with two baseball fields with amenities that include bleachers, concession stand, restrooms, tables, dugouts, pitching/batting cages, paved parking for 6 cars and 2 disabled accessible spaces, etc. The baseball fields are used by the Murphy Ranch Little League for baseball practice and games for youth ages 4 to 16 years old that live or attend schools in the Murphy Ranch Little League boundaries which are in close proximity to the project site.

   The project proposes to install 11 galvanized steel poles with lights ranging in height from 60-feet to 80-feet to light the two baseball fields to allow evening baseball practice and games. The holes for the 60-foot tall steel light poles would be 30" in diameter and 10 feet deep and the holes for the 80-foot tall steel light poles would be 42" in diameter and 20 feet deep. Trenching would also be required to install underground wiring from the electrical panel behind the baseball fields to the light poles.

   Construction to install the 11 galvanized steel poles is scheduled to occur sometime during the fourth quarter of 2022 until the summer of 2023. Once project construction begins the actual time to complete the project is estimated to take approximately three weeks to dig the holes, lift, set, and backfill the holes for the 11 galvanized steel light poles. It would take approximately five weeks to dig the trenches for the wiring for the lights, lay the wire in the trenches from the galvanized steel light poles to the electrical control panel and finalize the lights for use for a total construction period of approximately

Source: Phil Martin & Associates, Inc.

FIGURE 1

Regional Map

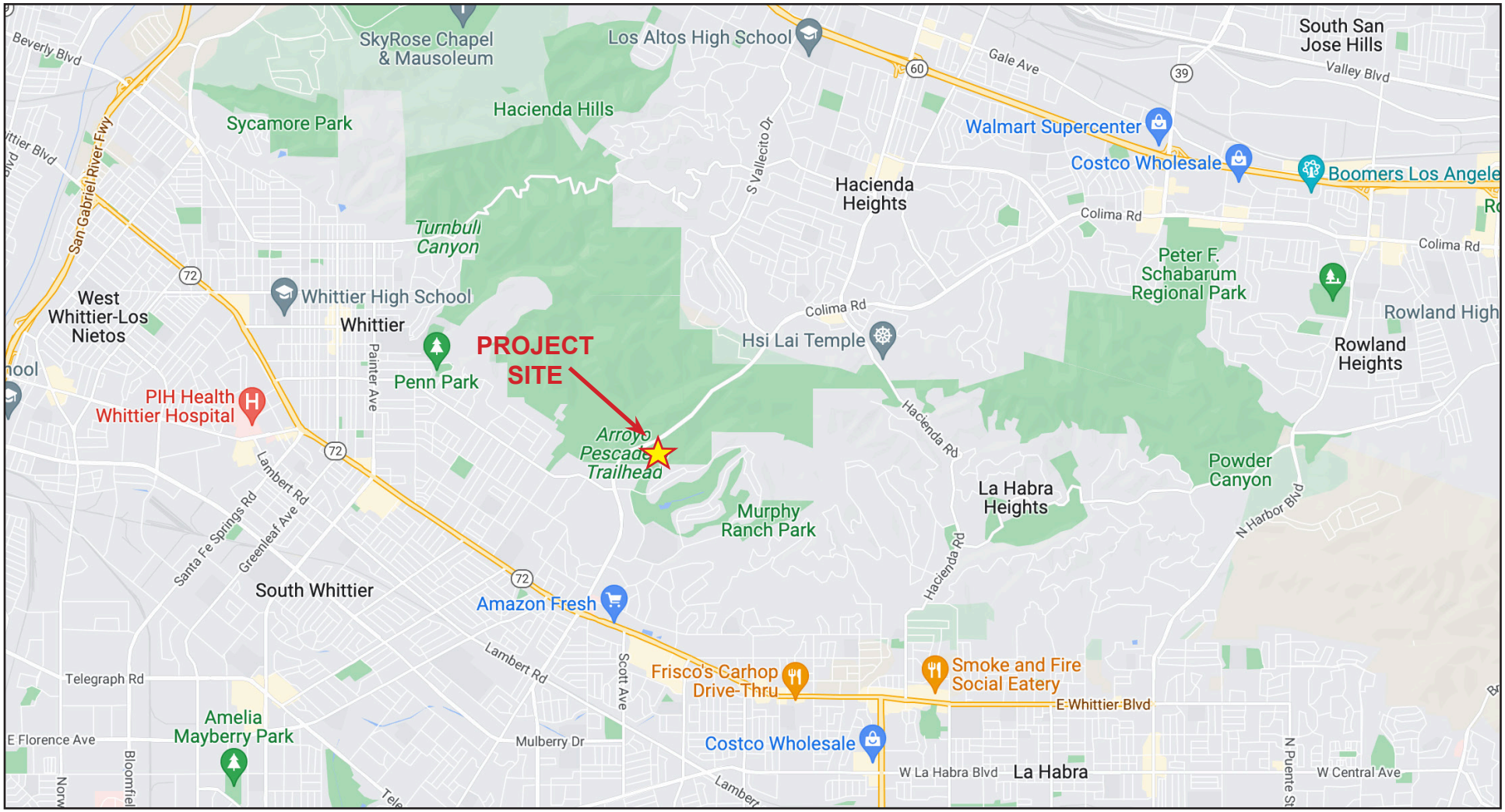

FIGURE 2

Local Vicinity Map

Source: Google Maps

Source: Google Earth

LEGEND

Project Site

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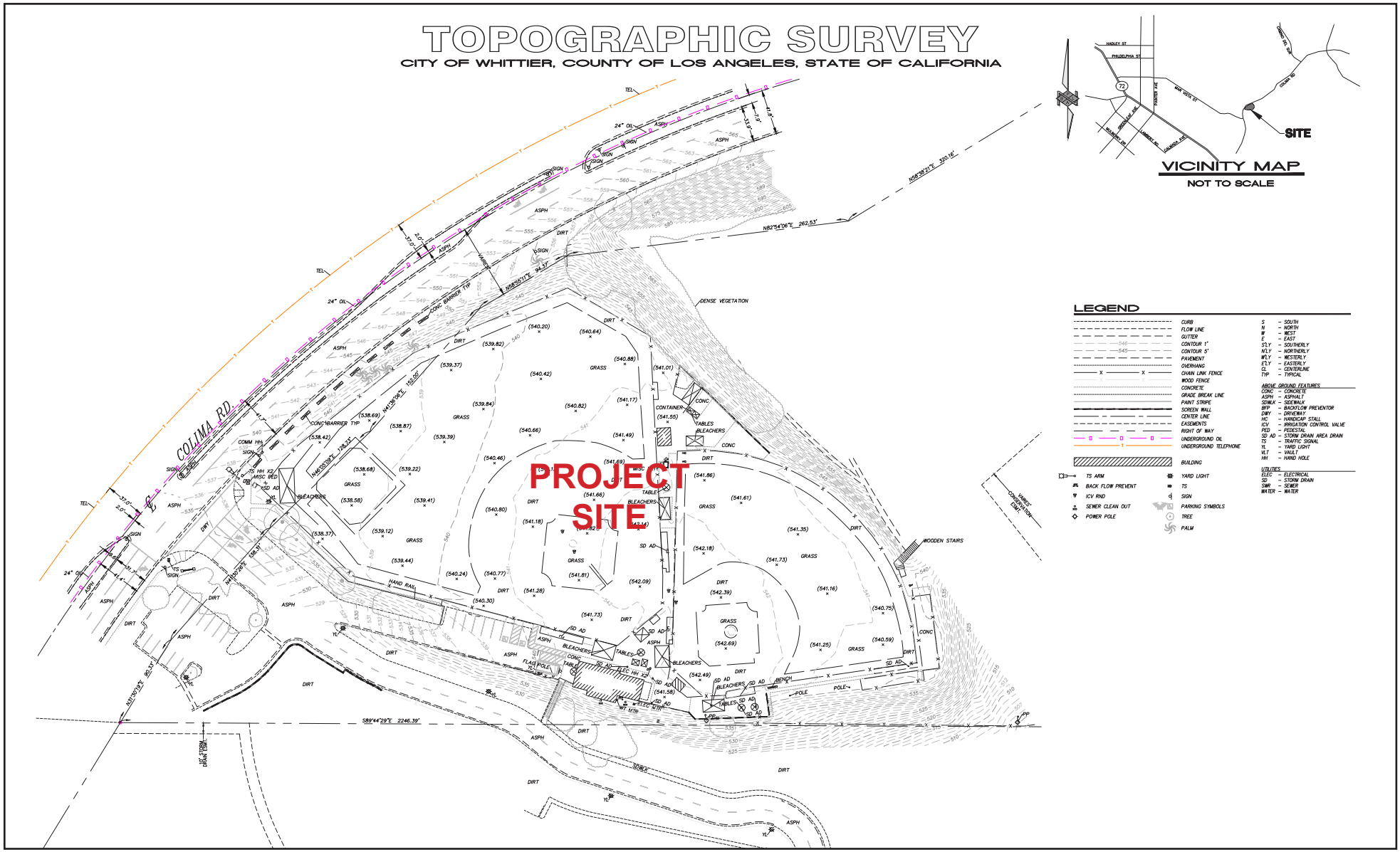
FIGURE 3

Aerial Photo



Source: PBLA Surveying Inc.

FIGURE 4

USGS Topo Map

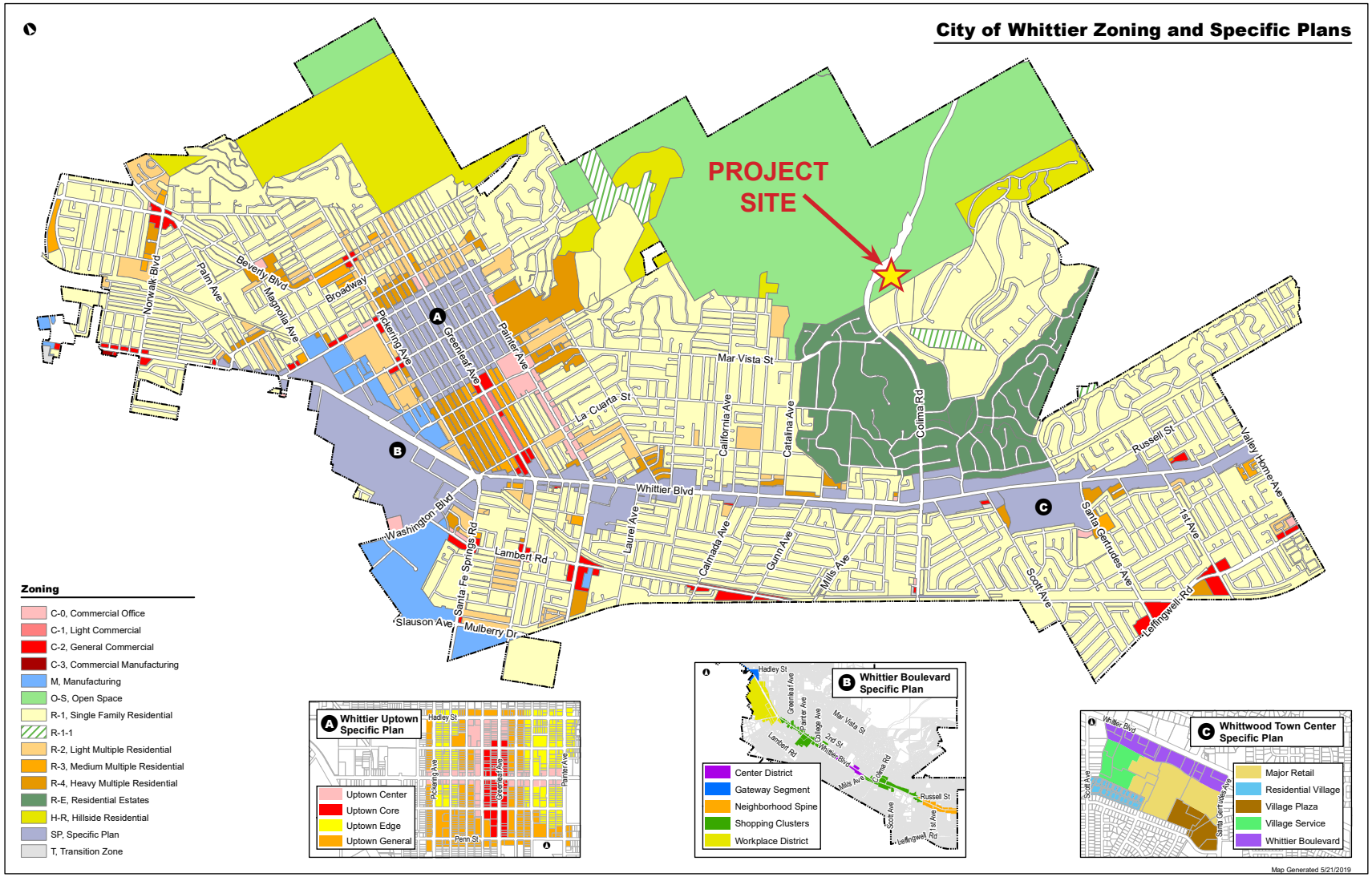


FIGURE 5

Whittier Zoning Map

two months. Approximately five pieces of construction equipment would be required during the three-week period to dig the holes and install the steel light poles.

The light fixtures would be factory aimed to ensure accurate light distribution as required for proper photometrics on each field. The light fixtures would utilize external visors to focus the light from each light pole onto each specific field to minimize off-site spill light and glare to surrounding properties. Figure 6 shows the proposed lighting plan for the two baseball fields.

The proposed lighting of the two existing baseball fields would allow the Murphy Ranch Little League to use the baseball fields 7 days a week year-around. The lights would shut off at 10:00 pm. A dimmer switch would be installed to allow the lights to be reduced to 50 percent of the full light intensity for ten minutes and further reduced to 30 percent for five minutes to allow players, parents and spectators to safely get to their cars before the lights are completely shut-off at 10:15 pm each evening.

9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** The surrounding land uses include Colima Road adjacent to and north and west of the site, north, east and west of Colima Road is vacant open space that is within the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, south of the site is the Whittier Area Community Church and east of the site are single family detached residential homes within the Friendly Hills Country Club development. The project is located adjacent to a 15.8-acre conservation easement that is managed by the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority.

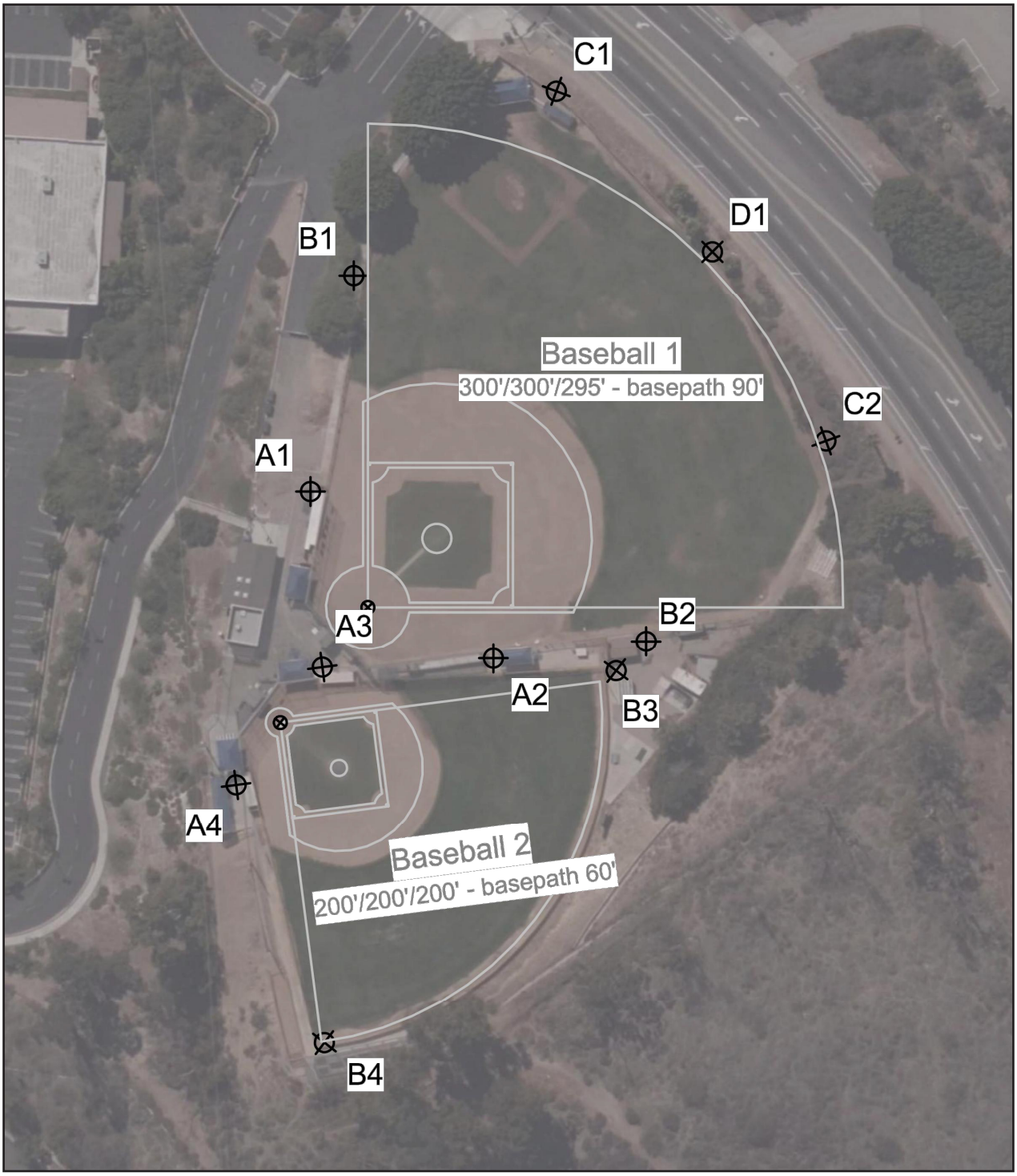
10. **Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required:** The discretionary approval required from the City of Whittier includes approval of a Mitigated Negative Declaration to allow the installation of the field steel light poles and approval of the proposed baseball field lighting plan. No other public agency approvals are required.

11. **Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?** Tribal letters were mailed by the City of Whittier to nine tribes and formally invited consultation with the City in compliance with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1. At the end of the required 30-day period the City received a tribal request for consultation from the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation. As requested, the City consulted with the tribe and based on the consultation with the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation two mitigation measures are recommend in Section "XVIII a)" below of this MND that address their concerns. The tribes that were contacted include:

    1. Joseph Ontiveros, Cultural Resources Director
       Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
       P.O. Box 487
       San Jacinto, CA 92581

    2. Andrew Salas, Chairman
       Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation
       P.O. Box 393
       Covina, CA 91723

    3. Anthony Morales, Chairperson
       Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel
       Band of Mission Indians
       PO Box 693
       San Gabriel, CA 91778



Source: City of Whittier, Department of Public Works

A1 - D1 - Light Pole Locations

FIGURE 6
Proposed Lighting Plan

4. Charles Alvarez
   Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe
   23454 Vanowen Street
   West Hills, CA 91307

5. Christina Conley, Tribal Consultant
   Gabrielino/Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
   PO Box 941078
   Simi Valley, CA 93094

6. Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson
   Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
   PO Box 487
   San Jacinto, CA 92581

7. Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair
   Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
   PO Box 391820
   Anza, CA 92539

8. Robert Dorame, Chairperson
   Gabrielino/Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
   PO Box 490
   Bellflower, CA 90707

9. Sandonne Goad, Chairperson
   Gabrielino/Tongva Nation
   106 ½ Judge John Aiso Street, #231
   Los Angeles, CA 90012

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.2) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code Section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code Section 21082.3 (c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☒ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☒ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☒ Geology/Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials
☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use/Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☐ Noise	☐ Population/Housing	☐ Public Services

☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation	☒ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☒ Wildfire	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

13. DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant impact on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant impact on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on an earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

_____ _____

Signature: Date

Evaluation of Environmental Impacts:

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation,

or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less-than-significant Impact". The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below may be cross-referenced).

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:

   a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

   b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

14. ISSUES:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS: Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that will adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☒	☐	☐
II. AGRICULTURE and FORESTRY RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agricultural farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could individually or cumulatively result in the loss of	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				

III. AIR QUALITY: Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutants for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filing, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒
VI. ENERGY: Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.)	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv. Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS Would the project:

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport, will the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people working or residing in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☒	☐	☐

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of				

the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner, which would:				
(i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	☒
(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	☒
(iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☐	☒
(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING: Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigation an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES: Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XIII. NOISE: Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport, will the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING: Would the project:

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES:

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XVI. RECREATION:

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XVII. TRANSPORTATION: Would the project:

a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XVIII.TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES:

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1 (k), or	☐	☒	☐	☐
ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒	☐	☐

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project:

a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Comply with federal, state and local management and reduction statues and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XX. WILDFIRE – If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result or runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☒	☐

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

15. EXPLANATION OF ISSUES:

I. AESTHETICS: Would the project:

a) ***Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** There are no State or County designated scenic vistas either adjacent to or within direct view of the site that would be impacted by the project.

Based on the Envision Whittier General Plan EIR. "Scenic vistas are defined as natural landscapes that provide views of unique flora, geologic or other natural features that are generally free from urban intrusions. Typical scenic vistas include views of mountains and hills, large, uninterrupted open spaces and waterbodies. Scenic vistas generally play a large role in the way a community defines itself and

also affects development patterns as projects are designed to take advantage of viewsheds. Scenic vistas can be impacted by development in two ways. First, a structure may be constructed that blocks the view of the vista. Second, the vista itself may be altered (i.e., development on a scenic hillside). The Puente Hills are visible to the north and east of the Planning Area. The Puente Hills are the major topographic and open space feature in the area. The Puente Hills provide an intact natural backdrop to the City of Whittier; the hills support trees and visible rock outcrops as well as a variety of vegetation (CMCA, 2007). Much of the Puente Hills is either formally designated as a preserve or is protected through General Plan policies and programs. The Puente Hills can be seen from many locations within the Planning Area, particularly from through-streets that provide unobstructed views to the east/northeast. Many other streets offer views of the Puente Hills, however, the streets with unobstructed views provide a wider, less obstructed viewshed of the hills, which helps connect the Planning Area to the natural environment. Protection of these views has long been a priority, and most homes and new developments in the Planning Area have been one- and two-story, largely preserving existing views of the nearby Puente Hills (Whittier, 2017).[1]

The Envision Whittier General Plan defines Open Space as, "land that is not developed for residential, commercial, or industrial use and that is set aside for natural resource preservation/conservation or for outdoor recreation. Open space lands can encompass wildlife habitat, rivers, groundwater recharge areas, and areas containing mineral deposits. Trails, parks, outdoor recreation areas, utility easements, scenic highway corridors, and areas with limitations on usage to mitigate hazardous conditions (such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soils, flood plains, and watersheds) are also often considered open space.[2]

Whittier's most prominent natural resource is the Puente Hills Preserve located along the City's northern edge. Over 70 percent of Whittier's total park acreage comprises natural parks within the Puente Hills Preserve. The Puente Hills Preserve is managed by the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (HPA). The HPA, established in 1994, is a public agency formed by a Joint Power Agreement with the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association. The Puente Hills Preserve is designated a Significant Ecological Area (SEA), a Los Angeles County-designated area with irreplaceable biological resources. The SEA program implements an ordinance that regulates development within these areas to balance the preservation of biodiversity and private property rights.[3] The Murphy Ranch Little League baseball fields are located adjacent to the Puente Hills Preserve.

The installation of the 11 galvanized steel poles with lights ranging in height from 60-feet to 80-feet would be visible from area within the Planning Area that look over the project site from a distance to the Puente Hills Preserve. While the light poles and lights would be visible the aesthetic impact would depend on the viewing distance of the viewer to the Puente Hills Preserve. The further a viewer is from the Puente Hills Preserve the less visible and less impact the light poles and lights would have on the view. The closer a viewer is to the Puente Hills Preserve and looks over the project site the more the light poles and lights would be noticeable. Even at a close distance the light poles and lights would not completely block or significant interrupt the vista of the Puente Hills Preserve. The project would have a less than significant impact to a scenic vista.

[1] City of Whittier General Plan Update and Housing Element Update FINAL Environmental Impact Report (SCH 2021040762), MIG, Inc., September 29, 2021, page 4.1-1.
[2] Envision Whittier General Plan, October 12, 2021, page RM-3.
[3] Ibid, page RM-5.

b) ***Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** There are no Officially Designated or Eligible State Scenic Highways[4] and no scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within a state scenic highway either adjacent to or in direct view from the project site that would be removed or altered by the project. The nearest officially designated state scenic highway, State Route 91 (SR-91), is located more than 14 miles southeast of the City of Whittier in Anaheim Hills and would not be visible to motorists within the Planning Area.[5] The second closest state designated scenic route to the project site is Route 2 near Route 210 in La Canada Flintridge and approximately twenty-one miles northwest of the project site. Neither State Scenic Highway is visible from the project site due to their distance and difference in topography. Therefore, the proposed installation of the 11 galvanized steel light poles and lights would not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway and potential impacts would be less than significant.

c) ***In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project is located in an urbanized area.[6] The project is consistent with the City's Open Space zoning for the site as described in Chapter 18.09 of the Whittier Municipal Code. The OS zone shall be applied to areas in which wildlands, wildlife and natural ecosystems are to be protected or conserved. Such areas may be modified to accommodate low impact recreational activities. Alterations to existing land forms and topography shall be limited. The installation of the proposed 11 galvanized steel light poles and lights would not conflict with any City zoning code regulations regarding scenic quality.

Scenic resources are occurrences of aesthetically pleasing features. Examples of the natural scenic resources include outcroppings, trees, prominent ridgelines, slopes and hilltops. The Puente Hills form the most significant scenic resource in the Planning Area, creating a distinguishable topographic feature that defines many of the views in the area.[7]

The Planning Area also includes a number of view corridors, gateways, and landmarks which can be considered scenic resources. Exhibit 4.1-1 (Corridors, Gateways, and Landmarks) of the Whittier General Plan EIR shows the location of the Planning Area's view corridors, major and minor gateways, and key landmarks. "View corridors" are human-made or natural features that afford line-of-sight views of distant visual resources such as peaks, ridgelines, and valleys (CMCA, 2007). In the Planning Area, a variety of scenic or view corridors are formed along key major roadways. Turnbull Canyon, Skyline Drive, La Cuarta and Colima which are currently designated as Scenic Corridors and Beverly Blvd., Hadley, Greenleaf, Painter, Whittier Blvd and portion of Colima which are considered Design Corridors.[8] The project site is located adjacent to Colima Road, which is a designated Major Corridor as shown in Exhibit 4.1-1 Corridors, Gateways, & Landmarks of the Whittier General Plan EIR.

[4] State of California Officially Designated State Scenic Highways, https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways.
[5] [5] City of Whittier General Plan Update and Housing Element Update FINAL Environmental Impact Report (SCH 2021040762), MIG, Inc., September 29, 2021, page 4.1-11.
[6] CEQA Guidelines §15387.
[7] City of Whittier General Plan Update and Housing Element Update FINAL Environmental Impact Report (SCH 2021040762), MIG, Inc., September 29, 2021, page 4.1-2.
[8] Ibid, page 4.1-3.

The applicable goal and policies of the Envision Whittier General Plan Resource Management Element to protect natural resources and conservation in the City associated with the project include the following:

Goal 1.0: Preserve and protect natural open spaces that contain significant natural resources, including sensitive biological resources, native habitats and vegetation communities supporting wildlife species.

RM 1.4 Encourage preservation of continuous open space that promotes movement of wildlife, such that wildlife corridors are maintained and/or reestablished.

RM 1.6 Collaborate with wildlife and conservation agencies to identify areas to target for conservation and preservation of native habitats, while allowing open space to be accessed for recreation, resource management, and public safety purposes.

Goal 10: Provide residents of all ages, cultures and incomes with a range of recreation opportunities to meet multigenerational, environmental and recreation interests.

RM 10.1 Improve existing and build new park spaces and recreation facilities responding to the community's changing demographics and needs.

RN 10.2 Enhance park aesthetics, lighting and design to provide safe and environmentally responsible park and recreation spaces.

The project would change the visual character of the site from Colima Road adjacent to the site and other areas within the Planning Area with the installation of the proposed 11 galvanized steel light poles and lights that would range in height from 60-feet to 80-feet compared to the existing conditions at the two baseball fields that do not have any field lights. The installation of the proposed 11 galvanized steel light poles and lights would change the existing visual character of the site from adjacent surrounding public views that have direct views of the site with the addition of the light poles compared to the site without any light poles. The installation of the light poles is consistent with the applicable goals and policies of the Envision Whittier General Plan Resource Management Element by preserving the continuous natural open space adjacent to the site and continue to promote the movement of wildlife and maintain the existing wildlife corridor in the open space area. The project is also consistent with the applicable goals and policies to the Envision Whittier General Plan Resource Management Element to meet the needs and recreational interests for local youth that play baseball. The project also would improve the existing Murphy Ranch Little League baseball fields by enhancing the lighting of the fields to provide safe and environmentally responsible park and recreation space. Therefore, the project is consistent with and would not conflict with the zoning or the Envision Whittier General Plan Resource Management Element regarding scenic quality.

As discussed in Section "I.a,b" of this MND above there are designated scenic views or resources from the project site that would be significantly impacted with the installation of the 11 galvanized steel light poles and lights. The proposed installation of the light poles and lights would not significantly degrade or impact public views of the baseball fields from Colima Road or any other adjacent surrounding areas The project would have less than significant scenic impacts.

d) ***Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** The installation of the 11 galvanized steel light poles and lights would increase light and glare from the project site compared to the existing condition since the baseball fields do not currently have lights. Therefore, when in use 7 days a week year-

around in the evening and nighttime hours for baseball practice and play, the light and glare that would be generated would be greater compared to the existing condition with no lights.

The light and glare that would be generated by the project would be directly visible by residents along Villaverde Drive that are more than 160 feet south of the project site. Light and glare from the lights would also be visible to the residents along the north side of Lodosa Drive that are over 900 feet south of the project site and have direct views of the baseball fields. The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority lands would be impacted by the addition of the new light source.

While the light and glare generated by the proposed 11 lights would be visible to the residents south of the project site, the LED lights from each of the light poles would be factory focused to a specific area on the two baseball fields. Current technology would minimize backlighting from the LED lights on each light pole to the residents south of the project as well as the open space east and north of the site and the Whittier Area Community Church that is approximately 160 feet west of the site. Therefore, the factory settings to focus the lights on the baseball fields and the technology to minimize backlighting to approximately 1.35-foot candles would reduce and minimize any light and glare impacts from the 11 galvanized steel light poles to the residents south of the project site to less than significant.

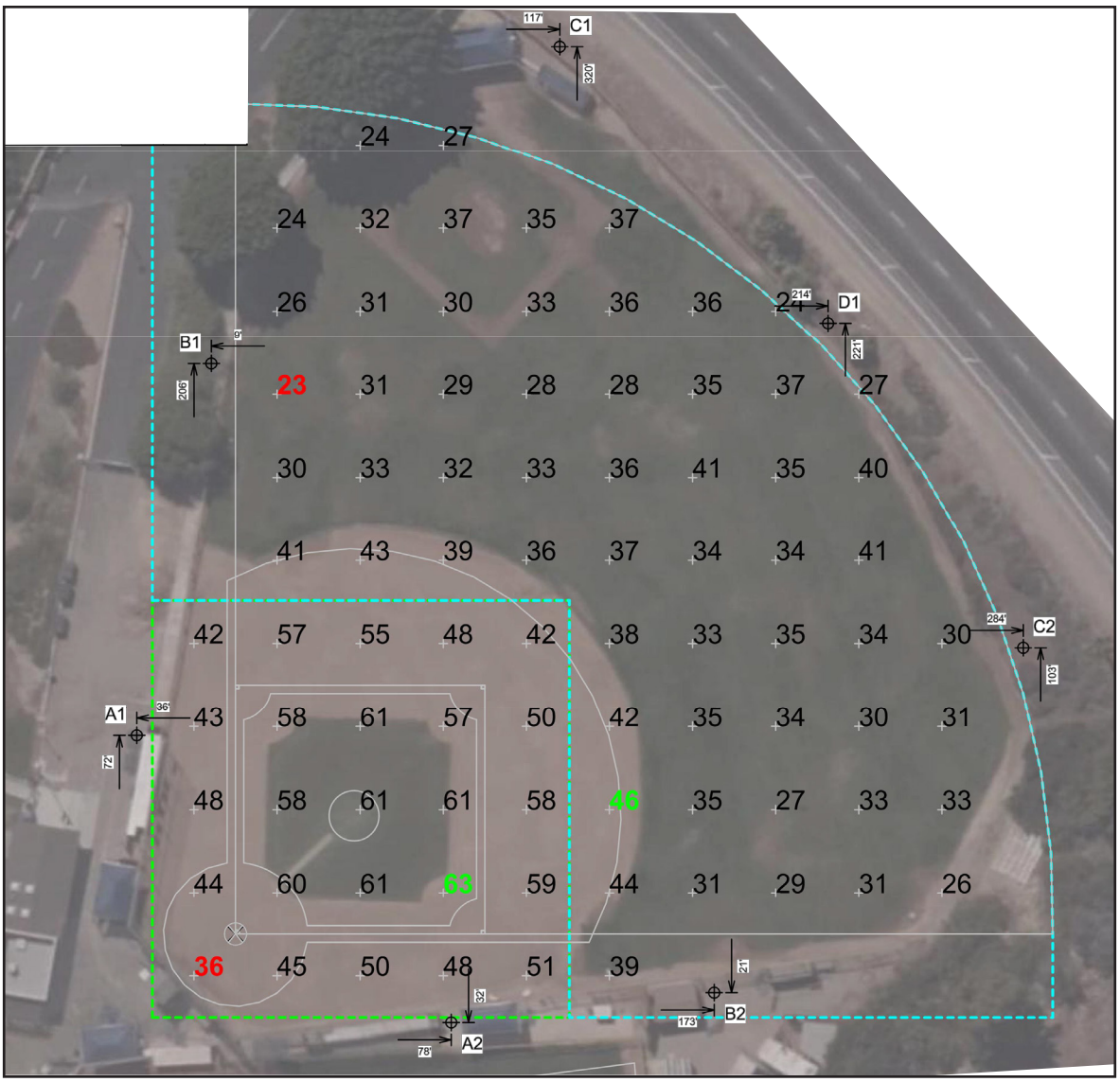
Figures 7 and 8 show the calculated foot candles on the fields for fields #1 and #2, respectively. The calculated foot-candles for each field is based on the location of the lights that are proposed for the fields. The lights would be factory designed to focus the lights onto the field of play. As shown, the intensity of the light in terms of foot-candles is greatest at home plate and gradually decrease towards the outfields. The highest foot-candles at home plate meet the required footcandles required for little league play.

Figures 9 and 10 show the calculated foot-candles adjacent to and off the fields for fields #1 and #2, respectively. The calculated foot-candles for each field are based on the location of the lights that are proposed for the fields. As shown, the foot-candles outside of and closest to the fields is similar to the on-field foot-candles at the edge of each baseball field. As also shown in Figures 9 and 10, the foot-candle intensity from the backlighting of the lights drops off to less than 1 foot-candle at relatively short distance from the fields.

The light poles would range in height from 60-feet to 80-feet and are at the minimum height necessary to properly light the baseball fields safely and reduce back light glare onto the adjacent open space. Lowering the poles would drastically increase the glare in the batter's eyes as well as other players on the field resulting in a safety issue. Lowering the light poles would increase the glare to the habitat area east of the site because of the aiming angles necessary to light the fields and require the installation of additional lights to achieve the required on-field footcandles to safely play games To minimize back light glare the light source needs to be aimed downward as much as possible. Therefore, the 11 lights are proposed for the height necessary to eliminate glare in the batter's eyes and minimize back lighting.

While the project would generate new sources of light and glare from the project site compared to the existing condition, the light and glare impacts to the residents closest to and south of the site would be less than significant.

The following mitigation measure is recommended to reduce potential light impacts to the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority open space area adjacent to the site.



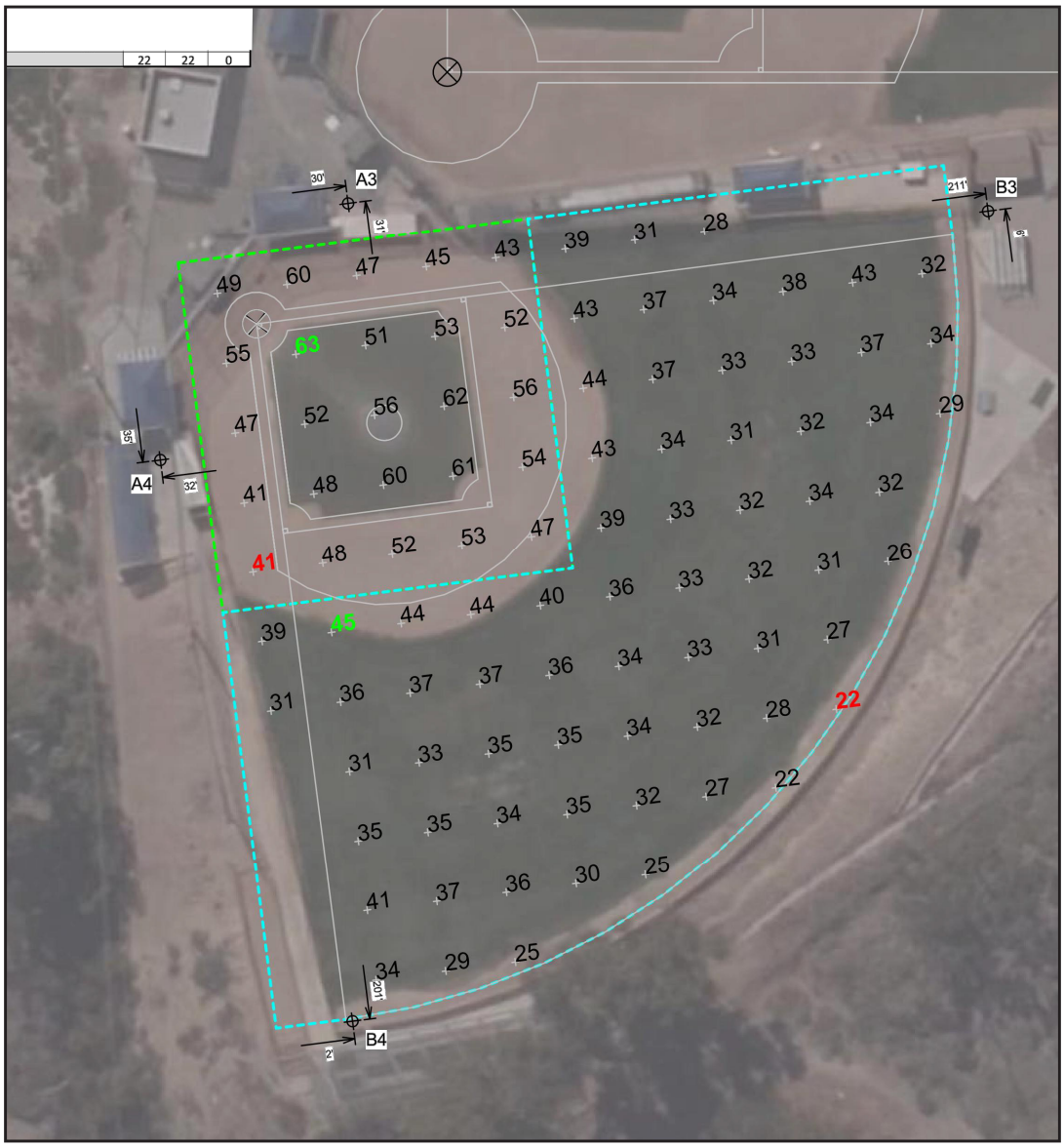
Source: City of Whittier, Department of Public Works

EQUIPMENT LIST FOR AREAS SHOWN

Pole				Luminaires				
QTY	LOCATION	SIZE	GRADE ELEVATION	MOUNTING HEIGHT	LUMINAIRE TYPE	QTY / POLE	THIS GRID	OTHER GRIDS
2	A1-A2	70'	-	70'	TLC-LED-400	1	1	0
				15.5'	TLC-BT-575	1	1	0
				70'	TLC-LED-1500	3	3	0
1	B1	80'	-	80'	TLC-LED-1500	4	4	0
				80'	TLC-LED-600	1	1	0
				15.5'	TLC-BT-575	1	1	0
				80'	TLC-LED-900	1	1	0
1	B2	80'	-	80'	TLC-LED-900	2	2	0
				15.5'	TLC-BT-575	1	1	0
				80'	TLC-LED-1500	4	4	0
2	C1-C2	60'	-	15.5'	TLC-BT-575	1	1	0
				60'	TLC-LED-900	3	3	0
1	D1	60'	0'	60'	TLC-LED-1200	1	1	0
				60'	TLC-LED-900	2	2	0
				15.5'	TLC-BT-575	2	2	0
				60'	TLC-LED-400	1	1	0

FIGURE 7

On-Field Photometric Plan - Field 1

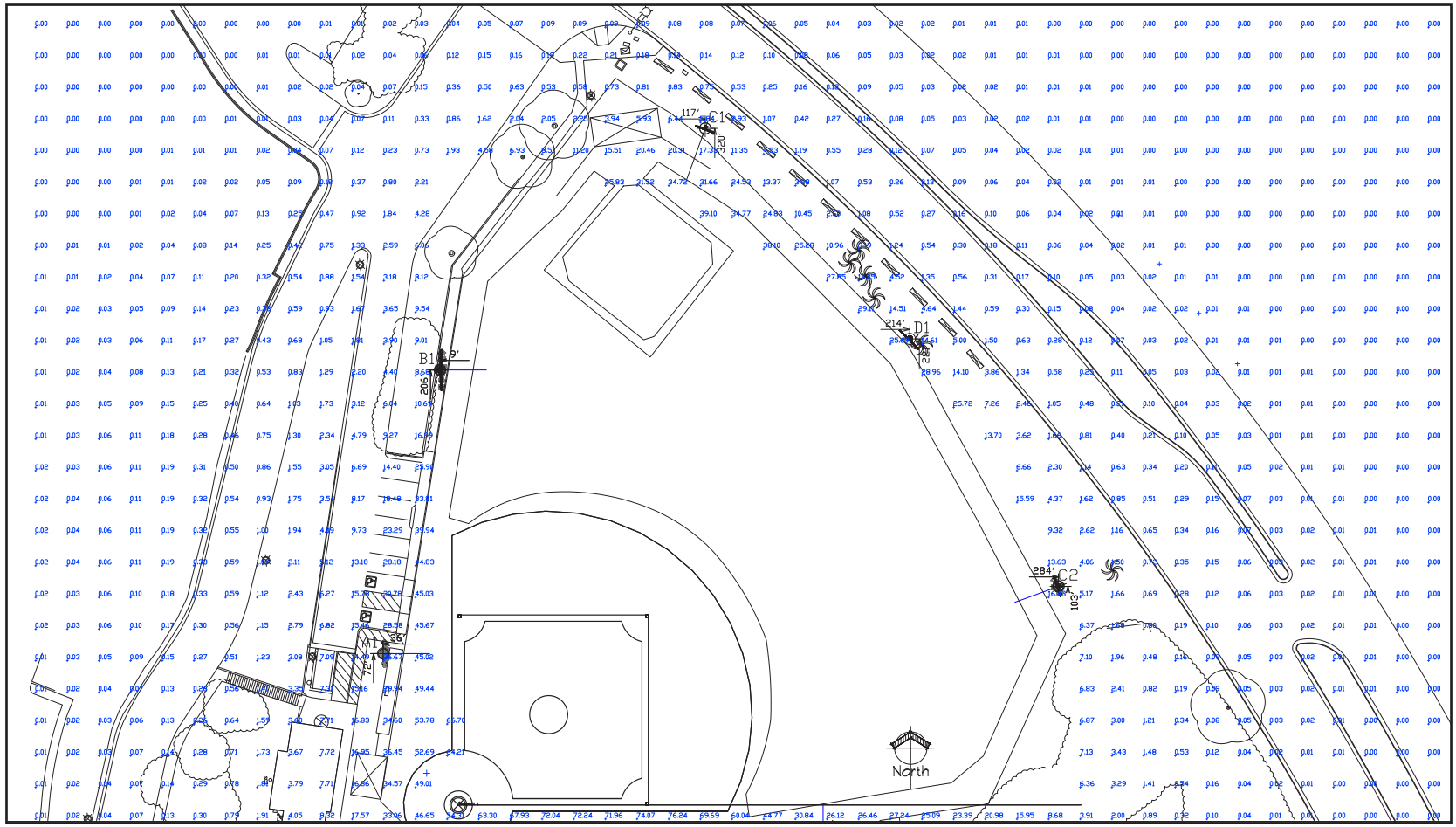


Source: City of Whittier, Department of Public Works

EQUIPMENT LIST FOR AREAS SHOWN								
Pole				Luminaires				
QTY	LOCATION	SIZE	GRADE ELEVATION	MOUNTING HEIGHT	LUMINAIRE TYPE	QTY / POLE	THIS GRID	OTHER GRIDS
2	A3-A4	60'	-	60'	TLC-LED-900	2	2	0
				15.5'	TLC-BT-575	1	1	0
				60'	TLC-LED-1200	1	1	0
1	B3	70'	-	70'	TLC-LED-400	1	1	0
				15.5'	TLC-BT-575	2	2	0
				70'	TLC-LED-1500	4	4	0
1	B4	70'	-	70'	TLC-LED-900	1	1	0
				15.5'	TLC-BT-575	2	2	0
				70'	TLC-LED-1500	4	4	0
4	TOTALS					22	22	0

FIGURE 8

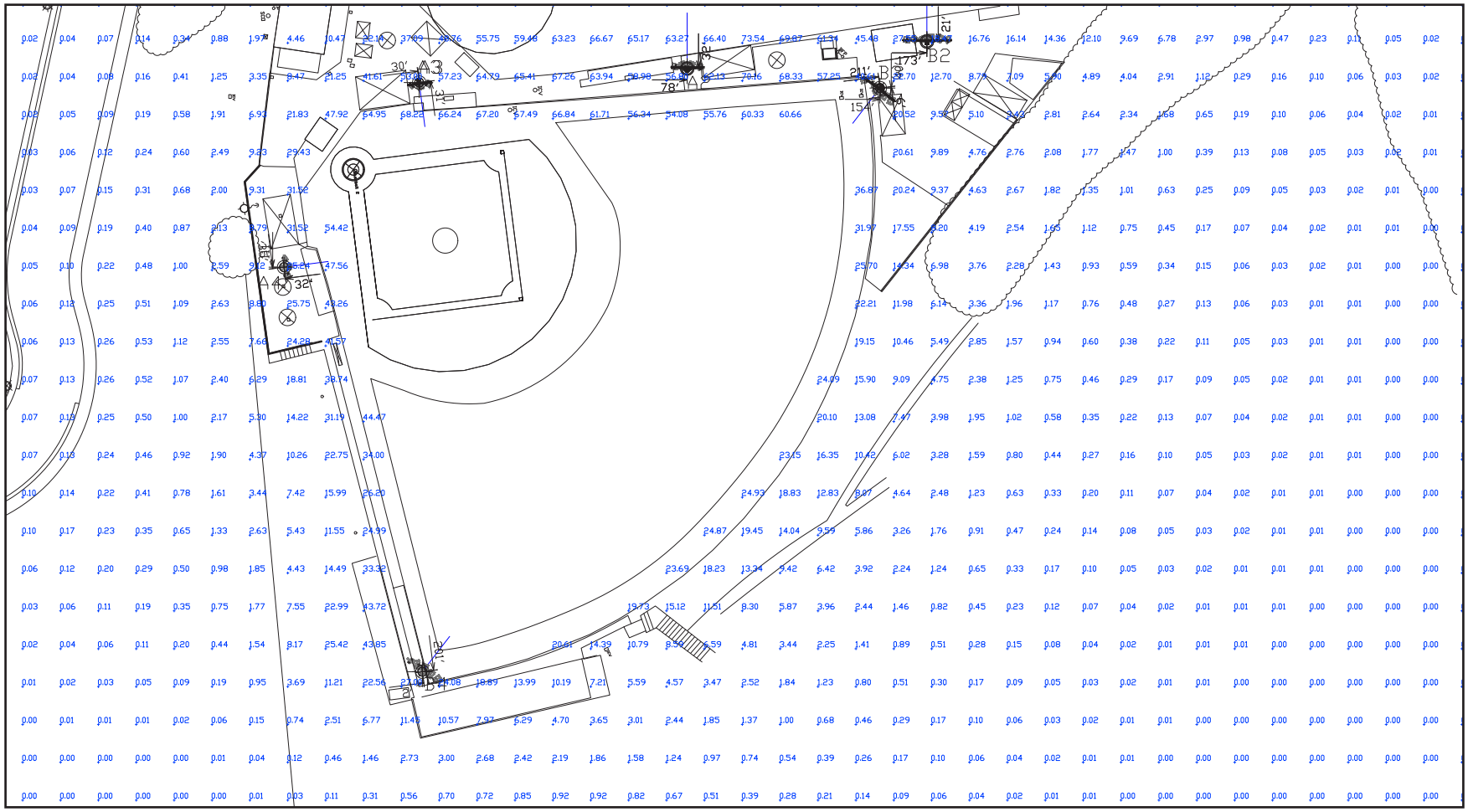
On-Field Photometric Plan - Field 2



Source: City of Whittier, Department of Public Works

FIGURE 9

Off-Field Photometric Plan - Field 1



Source: City of Whittier, Department of Public Works

FIGURE 10

Off-Field Photometric Plan - Field 2

Mitigation Measure No. 1 The baseball field lights shall be turned off at 10 pm. A dimmer switch shall be installed to allow the lights to be reduced to 50 percent of the full light intensity for ten minutes and further reduced to 30 percent for five minutes to allow players, parents and spectators to safely get to their cars before the lights are completely shut-off at 10:15 pm.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES: Would the project:

a) ***Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?*** **No Impact.** The project site is developed with two baseball fields that are used by the Murphy Ranch Little League for baseball practice and play. There are no agricultural uses on or adjacent to the site. The project site is designated "Urban and Built-Up Land"[9] by the State of California Department of Conservation as of 2016[10]. The project would not convert prime, unique, or farmland of statewide importance to non-agricultural use. The project would have no impact to any type of farmland.

b) ***Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*** **No Impact.** The project site is zoned for Open Space use and agricultural use is not allowed in the O-S zone. The project site is not under a Williamson Act contract. The project would not conflict with and have no impact to any agricultural zoning for agricultural use on the site or conflict with an existing Williamson Act contract.

c) ***Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?*** **No Impact.** As identified in the City of Whittier General Plan Update and Housing Element Update FINAL Environmental Impact Report there are no forests or timberland in the City of Whittier and the city does not have any zoning that allows timber or forest land. The project would not impact forest or timber production.

d) ***Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*** **No Impact.** As discussed in Section "II.c" of this MND above, the project would not result in the loss of any forests or timberland.

e) ***Involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could individually or cumulatively result in the loss of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?*** **No Impact.** As discussed in Section "II.a" of this MND above, the project would not result in the loss of any

[9] Urban and Built-up Land is used for residential, industrial, commercial, construction, institutional, public administrative purposes, railroad yards, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment plants, water control structures, and other development purposes. Highways, railroads, and other transportation facilities are mapped as a part of Urban and Built-up Land if they are a part of the surrounding urban areas. Units of land smaller than 10 acres will be incorporated into the surrounding map classifications. The building density for residential use must be at least 1 structure per 1.5 acres (or approximately 6 structures per 10 acres). Urban and Built-up Land must contain man-made structures or buildings under construction, and the infrastructure required for development (e.g., paved roads, sewers, water, electricity, drainage, or flood control facilities) that are specifically designed to serve that land. Parking lots, storage and distribution facilities, and industrial uses such as large packing operations for agricultural produce will generally be mapped as Urban and Built-up Land even though they may be associated with agriculture. Urban and Built-up Land does not include strip mines, borrow pits, gravel pits, farmsteads, ranch headquarters, commercial feedlots, greenhouses, poultry facilities, or road systems for freeway interchanges outside of areas classified as Urban and Built-up Land areas. Within areas classified as Urban and Built-up Land, vacant and nonagricultural land which is surrounded on all sides by urban development and is less than 40 acres in size will be mapped as Urban and Built-up. Vacant and nonagricultural land larger than 40 acres in size will be mapped as Other Land. https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Documents/soil_criteria.pdf

[10] https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/

farmland, either individually or cumulatively and would not have any impact to farmland or an agricultural use.

III. AIR QUALITY: Would the project:

a) ***Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?*** **No Impact.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is the primary federal agency for regulating air quality. The EPA implements the provisions of the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA). This Act establishes National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) that are applicable nationwide. The EPA designates areas with pollutant concentrations that do not meet the NAAQS as non-attainment areas for each criteria pollutant. States are required by the FCAA to prepare State Implementation Plans (SIP) for designated non-attainment areas. The SIP is required to demonstrate how the areas would attain the NAAQS by the prescribed deadlines and what measures would be required to attain the standards. The EPA also oversees implementation of the prescribed measures. Areas that achieve the NAAQS after a non-attainment designation are redesignated as maintenance areas and must have approved Maintenance Plans to ensure continued attainment of the NAAQS.

The California Clean Air Act (CCAA) required all air pollution control districts in the state to prepare plans to reduce pollutant concentrations exceeding the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) and ultimately achieve the CAAQS. The districts are required to review and revise these plans every three years. The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), is located in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) in which the project is located, satisfies this requirement through the publication of an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The AQMP is developed by SCAQMD and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in coordination with local governments and the private sector. The AQMP is incorporated into the SIP by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to satisfy FCAA requirements discussed above.

The CCAA requires plans to demonstrate attainment of the NAAQS for which an area is designated as nonattainment. Further, the CCAA requires SCAQMD to revise its plan to reduce pollutant concentrations exceeding the CAAQS every three years. In the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), SCAQMD and SCAG, in coordination with local governments and the private sector, develop the AQMP for the air basin to satisfy these requirements. The AQMP is the most important air management document for the basin because it provides the blueprint for meeting state and federal ambient air quality standards.

On December 7, 2012, the 2012 AQMP was adopted by the SCAQMD Governing Board. The primary task of the 2012 AQMP is to bring the basin into attainment with federal health-based standards for unhealthful fine particulate matter (PM2.5) by 2014. The document states that to have any reasonable expectation of meeting the 2023 ozone deadline, the scope and pace of continued air quality improvement must greatly intensify.

AQMPs are required to be updated every three years. The 2016 AQMP was adopted by the SCAQMD Board on March 3, 2017, and has been submitted to the California Air Resources Board for forwarding to the EPA. The 2016 AQMP acknowledges that motor vehicle emissions have been effectively controlled and that reductions in NOx, the continuing ozone problem pollutant, may need to come from major stationary sources (power plants, refineries, landfill flares, etc.). The current attainment deadlines for all federal non-attainment pollutants are now as follows:

- 8-hour ozone (70 ppb) 2032
- Annual PM-2.5 (12 $\mu g/m^3$) 2025
- 8-hour ozone (75 ppb) 2024 (old standard)
- 1-hour ozone (120 ppb) 2023 (rescinded standard)
- 24-hour PM-2.5 (35 $\mu g/m^3$) 2019

The project does not directly relate to the AQMP in that there are no specific air quality programs or regulations governing the installation and operation of athletic field light. The conformity of a project with adopted plans, forecasts and programs relative to population, housing, employment and land use is the primary yardstick by which the significance of a project impact of planned growth is determined. The SCAQMD, however, while acknowledging that the AQMP is a growth-accommodating document, does not favor designating regional impacts as less than significant just because a proposed development is consistent with regional growth projections. The construction air emissions associated with the installation of 11 baseball field lights would not obstruct and have no impact on the implementation of the SCAB 2016 Air Quality Management Plan as described in Section "III.b" of this MND.

b) ***Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutants for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?*** **No Impact.** Cumulative projects include local development as well as general growth within the project area. However, as with most development, the greatest source of emissions is from mobile sources, which travel well out of the local area. Therefore, from an air quality standpoint, the cumulative analysis would extend beyond any local projects and when wind patterns are considered, would cover an even larger area.

The project is located in the SCAB and non-attainment for ozone and PM_{10} particulate matter. Construction and operation of cumulative projects would further degrade the local air quality, as well as the air quality of the South Coast Air Basin. The greatest cumulative impact on the regional air quality is the incremental addition of pollutants mainly from increased traffic from residential, commercial, and industrial development and the use of heavy equipment and trucks associated with the construction of these projects. Air quality would be temporarily degraded during construction activities that occur separately or simultaneously. However, in accordance with the SCAQMD methodology, projects that do not exceed the SCAQMD criteria or can be mitigated to less than criteria levels are not significant and do not add to the overall cumulative impact.

As stated in Section "III.c" of this MND below the project would not generate any short- or long-term air emissions that exceed SCAQMD emission thresholds. Therefore, the project would not have any cumulative criteria pollutant impacts.

c) ***Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations*****? Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** A sensitive receptor is a person in the population who is particularly susceptible to health effects due to exposure to an air contaminant. The following are land uses (sensitive sites) where sensitive receptors are typically located:

- Schools, playgrounds and childcare centers
- Long-term health care facilities
- Rehabilitation centers
- Convalescent centers
- Hospitals
- Retirement homes
- Residences[11]

The closest sensitive receptors to the project site are the employees of the Whittier Area Community Church that is approximately 160 feet west of the site and the residents along Villaverde Drive that are more than 160 feet south of the site.

11 South Coast Air Quality Management District, Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning, Chapter 2, page 2-1.

Criteria Pollutants, Health Effects, and Standards

Regional Air Quality

SCAQMD's "1993 CEQA Air Quality Handbook" establishes significance thresholds to assess the impact of project related air pollutant emissions. SCAQMD's construction emission significance thresholds are shown in Table 1. A project with daily emissions below these thresholds are considered to have a less than significant effect on air quality.

Table 1
SCAQMD Regional Pollutant Emission Thresholds of Significance

	Pollutant Emissions (lbs./day)					
	CO	ROG	NOx	PM10	PM2.5	SOx
Construction	550	75	100	150	55	150

Air Emission Thresholds

In the "1993 CEQA Air Quality Handbook", SCAQMD establishes significance thresholds to assess the impact of project related air pollutant emissions. These emissions and their thresholds are shown in Table 2. As shown, there are separate thresholds for short-term construction and long-term operational emissions. A project with daily emission rates below these thresholds is considered to have a less than significant effect on air quality. The thresholds shown below are used to evaluate the potential project air emission impacts of the project.

Table 2
SCAQMD Daily Emissions Thresholds of Significance

Pollutant	Construction	Operations
ROG	75	55
NOx	100	55
CO	550	550
PM-10	150	150
PM-2.5	55	55
SOx	150	150
Lead	3	3

Source: SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook, November, 1993 Rev.

Under the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA), the U.S. EPA has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six major pollutants; ozone (O_3), respirable particulate matter (PM_{10}), fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and lead. These six air pollutants are referred to as the criteria pollutants. The NAAQS are two tiered: primary, to protect public health, and secondary, to prevent degradation to the environment (i.e., impairment of visibility, damage to vegetation and property).

Under the California Clean Air Act (CCAA), the California Air Resources Board has established California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) to protect the health and welfare of Californians. State standards have been established for the six criteria pollutants as well as four additional pollutants; visibility reducing particles, sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, and vinyl chloride. Table 3 presents the state and national ambient air quality standards. Table 4 shows the health effects of the various pollutants.

Table 3
Ambient Air Quality Standards

Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Averaging Time	California Standards [1]		National Standards [2]		
		Concentration [3]	Method [4]	Primary [3,5]	Secondary [3,6]	Method [7]
Ozone (O_3)[8]	1 Hour	0.09 ppm (180 µg/m^3)	Ultraviolet Photometry	—	Same as Primary Standard	Ultraviolet Photometry
	8 Hour	0.070 ppm (137 µg/m^3)		0.070 ppm (137 µg/m^3)		
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM10)[9]	24 Hour	50 µg/m^3	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	150 µg/m^3	Same as Primary Standard	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	20 µg/m^3		—		
Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)[9]	24 Hour	—	—	35 µg/m^3	Same as Primary Standard	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	12 µg/m^3	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	12.0 µg/m^3	15 µg/m^3	
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1 Hour	20 ppm (23 mg/m^3)	Non-Dispersive Infrared Photometry (NDIR)	35 ppm (40 mg/m^3)	—	Non-Dispersive Infrared Photometry (NDIR)
	8 Hour	9.0 ppm (10 mg/m^3)		9 ppm (10 mg/m^3)	—	
	8 Hour (Lake Tahoe)	6 ppm (7 mg/m^3)		—	—	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)[10]	1 Hour	0.18 ppm (339 µg/m^3)	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence	100 ppb (188 µg/m^3)	—	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	0.030 ppm (57 µg/m^3)		0.053 ppm (100 µg/m^3)	Same as Primary Standard	
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)[11]	1 Hour	0.25 ppm (655 µg/m^3)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence	75 ppb (196 µg/m^3)	—	Ultraviolet Flourescence; Spectrophotometry (Pararosaniline Method)
	3 Hour	—		—	0.5 ppm (1300 µg/m^3)	
	24 Hour	0.04 ppm (105 µg/m^3)		0.14 ppm (for certain areas)[11]	—	
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	—		0.030 ppm (for certain areas)[11]	—	
Lead[12,13]	30 Day Average	1.5 µg/m^3	Atomic Absorption	—	—	High Volume Sampler and Atomic Absorption
	Calendar Quarter	—		1.5 µg/m^3 (for certain areas)[12]	Same as Primary Standard	
	Rolling 3-Month Average	—		0.15 µg/m^3		
Visibility Reducing Particles[14]	8 Hour	See footnote 14	Beta Attenuation and Transmittance through Filter Tape	No National Standards		
Sulfates	24 Hour	25 µg/m^3	Ion Chromatography			
Hydrogen Sulfide	1 Hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m^3)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence			
Vinyl Chloride[12]	24 Hour	0.01 ppm (26 µg/m^3)	Gas Chromatography			

See footnotes on next page ...

For more information please call ARB-PIO at (916) 322-2990 California Air Resources Board (5/4/16)

1. California standards for ozone, carbon monoxide (except 8-hour Lake Tahoe), sulfur dioxide (1 and 24 hour), nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter (PM10, PM2.5, and visibility reducing particles), are values that are not to be exceeded. All others are not to be equaled or exceeded. California ambient air quality standards are listed in the Table of Standards in Section 70200 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.

2. National standards (other than ozone, particulate matter, and those based on annual arithmetic mean) are not to be exceeded more than once a year. The ozone standard is attained when the fourth highest 8-hour concentration measured at each site in a year, averaged over three years, is equal to or less than the standard. For PM10, the 24 hour standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with a 24-hour average concentration above 150 $\mu g/m^3$ is equal to or less than one. For PM2.5, the 24 hour standard is attained when 98 percent of the daily concentrations, averaged over three years, are equal to or less than the standard. Contact the U.S. EPA for further clarification and current national policies.

3. Concentration expressed first in units in which it was promulgated. Equivalent units given in parentheses are based upon a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr. Most measurements of air quality are to be corrected to a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr; ppm in this table refers to ppm by volume, or micromoles of pollutant per mole of gas.

4. Any equivalent measurement method which can be shown to the satisfaction of the ARB to give equivalent results at or near the level of the air quality standard may be used.

5. National Primary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary, with an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health.

6. National Secondary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary to protect the public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a pollutant.

7. Reference method as described by the U.S. EPA. An "equivalent method" of measurement may be used but must have a "consistent relationship to the reference method" and must be approved by the U.S. EPA.

8. On October 1, 2015, the national 8-hour ozone primary and secondary standards were lowered from 0.075 to 0.070 ppm.

9. On December 14, 2012, the national annual PM2.5 primary standard was lowered from 15 $\mu g/m^3$ to 12.0 $\mu g/m^3$. The existing national 24-hour PM2.5 standards (primary and secondary) were retained at 35 $\mu g/m^3$, as was the annual secondary standard of 15 $\mu g/m^3$. The existing 24-hour PM10 standards (primary and secondary) of 150 $\mu g/m^3$ also were retained. The form of the annual primary and secondary standards is the annual mean, averaged over 3 years.

10. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 98th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 100 ppb. Note that the national 1-hour standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the national 1-hour standard to the California standards the units can be converted from ppb to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 100 ppb is identical to 0.100 ppm.

11. On June 2, 2010, a new 1-hour SO_2 standard was established and the existing 24-hour and annual primary standards were revoked. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 99th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 75 ppb. The 1971 SO_2 national standards (24-hour and annual) remain in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2010 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1971 standards, the 1971 standards remain in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2010 standards are approved.

    Note that the 1-hour national standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the 1-hour national standard to the California standard the units can be converted to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 75 ppb is identical to 0.075 ppm.

12. The ARB has identified lead and vinyl chloride as 'toxic air contaminants' with no threshold level of exposure for adverse health effects determined. These actions allow for the implementation of control measures at levels below the ambient concentrations specified for these pollutants.

13. The national standard for lead was revised on October 15, 2008 to a rolling 3-month average. The 1978 lead standard (1.5 $\mu g/m^3$ as a quarterly average) remains in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2008 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1978 standard, the 1978 standard remains in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2008 standard are approved.

14. In 1989, the ARB converted both the general statewide 10-mile visibility standard and the Lake Tahoe 30-mile visibility standard to instrumental equivalents, which are "extinction of 0.23 per kilometer" and "extinction of 0.07 per kilometer" for the statewide and Lake Tahoe Air Basin standards, respectively.

For more information please call ARB-PIO at (916) 322-2990 **California Air Resources Board (5/4/16)**

Table 4
Health Effects of Major Criteria Pollutants

Pollutants	Sources	Primary Effects
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	• Incomplete combustion of fuels and other carbon-containing substances, such as motor exhaust. • Natural events, such as decomposition of organic matter.	• Reduced tolerance for exercise. • Impairment of mental function. • Impairment of fetal development. • Death at high levels of exposure. • Aggravation of some heart diseases (angina).
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	• Motor vehicle exhaust. • High temperature stationary combustion. • Atmospheric reactions.	• Aggravation of respiratory illness. • Reduced visibility. • Reduced plant growth. • Formation of acid rain.
Ozone (O_3)	• Atmospheric reaction of organic gases with nitrogen oxides in sunlight.	• Aggravation of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. • Irritation of eyes. • Impairment of cardiopulmonary function. • Plant leaf injury.
Lead (Pb)	• Contaminated soil.	• Impairment of blood function and nerve construction. • Behavioral and hearing problems in children.
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM-10)	• Stationary combustion of solid fuels. • Construction activities. • Industrial processes. • Atmospheric chemical reactions.	• Reduced lung function. • Aggravation of the effects of gaseous pollutants. • Aggravation of respiratory and cardio respiratory diseases. • Increased cough and chest discomfort. • Soiling. • Reduced visibility.
Fine Particulate Matter (PM-2.5)	• Fuel combustion in motor vehicles, equipment, and industrial sources. • Residential and agricultural burning. • Industrial processes. • Also, formed from photochemical reactions of other pollutants, including NOx, sulfur oxides, and organics.	• Increases respiratory disease. • Lung damage. • Cancer and premature death. • Reduces visibility and results in surface soiling.
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	• Combustion of sulfur-containing fossil fuels. • Smelting of sulfur-bearing metal ores. • Industrial processes.	• Aggravation of respiratory diseases (asthma, emphysema). • Reduced lung function. • Irritation of eyes. • Reduced visibility. • Plant injury. • Deterioration of metals, textiles, leather, finishes, coatings, etc.

Source: California Air Resources Board, 2002.

Construction Emission Impacts

Dust is typically the primary concern during the construction of new structures. However, the project proposes to install 11 galvanized steel light poles with lights and does not propose any grading or building construction. The only construction activities associated with the installation of the light poles includes digging holes to install the 11 galvanized steel light poles that would range in height from 60-feet to 80-feet to allow evening baseball practice and games. The holes for the 60-foot tall steel light poles would be 30" in diameter and 10 feet deep and the holes for the 80-foot tall steel light poles would be 42" in diameter and 20 feet deep. The steel light poles would be installed in the holes, filled with concrete and backfilled. Any excess dirt can be hauled to the City of Whittier Landfill for free, however the soil must first be tested prior to delivery at the landfill for the following: VOC's and semi- VOC's; Metals; and Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons. The contractor can also haul the dirt to another facility in compliance with any testing or dumping restrictions. The air emissions associated with the digging of 11 holes, lifting the steel light poles into the holes, backfilling the holes and hauling less than 100 cubic yards of dirt (5 semi-truck loads) would be minimal and not exceed any of the pollutant construction emission thresholds shown in Table 4 above.

SCAQMD's Rule 403

The project would be required to comply with SCAQMD rules to reduce fugitive dust emissions during project construction. Project compliance with Rule 403 is achieved through the application of standard best management practices during construction, which include the application of water or chemical stabilizers to disturbed soils, manage haul road dust by the use of water, cover haul vehicles, restrict vehicle speeds on on-site unpaved roads to 15 mph, sweep loose dirt from paved site access roadways and stop construction activity when wind speeds exceed 25 mph. Because the potential for fugitive dust emission impacts for the project would be minimal, the only applicable Rule 403 dust control measure would be for the project contractor to cover dirt piles with tarps or spray with water as necessary throughout the day to minimize fugitive dust. Project compliance with Rule 403 would reduce fugitive dust emissions during project grading to less than significant.

Localized Significant Thresholds

As part of the SCAQMD's environmental justice program, attention was focused on localized effects of air quality. In accordance with Governing Board direction, SCAQMD staff developed localized significance threshold (LST) methodology and mass rate look-up tables by Source Receptor Area (SRA) that can be used to determine if a project may generate significant adverse localized air quality impacts. LSTs represent the maximum emissions from a project that would not cause or contribute to an exceedance of the most stringent applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard and are developed based on the ambient concentrations of that pollutant for each source receptor area.

The SCAQMD LST mass rate look-up tables allow one to determine if the daily emissions for proposed construction or operational activities could result in significant localized air quality impacts. If the calculated on-site emissions for the proposed construction or operational activities are below the LST emission levels in the LST mass rate look-up tables and no potentially significant air quality impacts are associated with other environmental issues, then the proposed construction or operation activity is not significant for local air quality.

The LST mass rate look-up tables are applicable to the following pollutants only: oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM_{10}), and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns ($PM_{2.5}$). LSTs are derived based on the location of the activity (i.e., the source/receptor area); the emission rates of NO_x, CO, $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}; and the distance to the nearest exposed individual.

The project is located in SCAQMD Source Receptor Area (SRA) 11. The closest residences are more than 160 feet south of the areas where the lights are proposed to be installed. As discussed above, due to the small scale of the project and the short time period required to dig and install the lights and the small fleet of trucks and construction equipment required to construct the project would not generate any construction emissions that exceed the pollutant emissions shown in Table 4 above and impact any residents closest to the site.

The operation of the proposed 11 lights would not generate any on-site air emissions. Therefore, the project would not generate any local air emissions or have any local air emission impacts.

While construction activities would not have any dust emissions to exceed SCAQMD CEQA thresholds, especially with compliance with Rule 403, the following mitigation measure is recommended for enhanced dust control because the air basin is non-attainment.

Mitigation Measure No. 2 Prior to the start and throughout project construction, the contractor shall implement and maintain the following fugitive dust control measures:

- Water exposed surfaces as needed to avoid visible dust leaving the construction site (typically 2-3 times/day).
- Cover all stockpiles with tarps at the end of each day or as needed.
- Provide water spray during loading and unloading of earthen materials.
- Cover all trucks hauling dirt, sand, or loose material require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- Sweep streets if visible soil material is carried out from the construction site and spills onto the street.

Operational Emission Impacts

The operation of the lights once installed would not generate any on-site operational air emissions. Therefore, the operational emissions of the project would not exceed SCAQMD operational emission thresholds of significance. The construction and operational emissions by the project would be less than significant.

d) ***Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?*** **No Impact.** The closest sensitive receptors to the project site are the employees of the Whittier Area Community Church that is located at 8100 Colima Road and approximately 160 feet south of the project site and the residents along Villaverde Drive that are more than 160 feet east of the site. Depending on local wind patterns, some odors associated with the operation of the diesel powered construction equipment required to dig the holes for the light poles, lift the poles into the holes, backfill the holes and construct the trenches for the underground wiring could extend to the residents east of the site and the Whittier Area Community Church employees south of the site. However, this condition would be short-term and temporary and once the light poles are installed and the wiring laid in the trenches any odors associated with the operation of any diesel powered construction equipment would cease. Due to the small scale of the project and the distance the closest residents and employees of the Whittier Area Community Church are to the baseball fields it is not anticipated that either the residents or employees of the Whittier Area Community Church would experience any significant odor impacts from the operation of any diesel powered construction equipment. Therefore, the project would not generate any objectionable odors and impact any area sensitive receptors during project construction.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

a) ***Have substantial adverse effects, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*** **Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** A biological assessment report[12] was prepared for the project. A copy of the report is included in Appendix A of the MND.

The project site is used by the Murphy Ranch Little League for baseball practice and play. The on-site vegetation is minimal and primarily includes non-native ornamental and invasive plant species. There are no candidate, sensitive, or special status species that are included in any local or regional plans, policies or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the project site. The proposed 11 galvanized steel light poles are proposed for areas within the boundary of the project that consist of turf or non-native ornamental and invasive plant specific. Therefore, the project would not have a direct impact to any on-site habitat for candidate, sensitive, or special status species wildlife.

The project is located adjacent to the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (PHHPA) property. The PHHPA is a public agency, Joint Powers Authority with a Board of Directors consisting of the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and a member representing Hacienda Heights, who is a member of the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association. The Habitat Authority came into existence in 1994 as a condition of approval for the Puente Hills Landfill, its main funding source.

To date, the PHHPA manages approximately 3,870 acres of preserved public open space, of which 1,878 is owned by the Habitat Authority. The remaining lands are owned either by the City of Whittier or the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.[13]

As discussed in Section "IV.d" of this MND below, the project could impact special status wildlife within the PHHPA adjacent to the site with to the operation of the proposed lights and noise associated with the baseball activities that would occur in the evening hours with the operation of the proposed lights. Section "IV.d" of this MND below discusses the potential impacts of the projects on the wildlife species known to occur within the PHHPA and provides mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts to those identified special status wildlife species. The implementation of the mitigation measures in Section "IV.d" of this MND would reduce potential impacts to biological species to less than significant.

b) ***Have substantial adverse impact on any riparian habitat or other natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** The site was disturbed in the past with the development of the baseball fields, concession stand, restrooms, batting cages and other improvements to support the baseball fields. As stated in the biological assessment report there is no wetland habitat, ephemeral drainages or jurisdictional water on the project site.[14] Therefore, the project would not impact any riparian habitat or other natural communities on the site.

The project is located south of the Arroyo San Miguel, which contains freshwater forested/shrub palustrine wetland and riverine habitat. The wetland habitat is located within the Friendly Hills Country Club golf course approximately 550 feet east of the project and separated from the project by an

[12] Biological Assessment Report, Murphy Ranch Little League Field Lighting Report, 7550 Colima Road, Whittier, California 90605, Bloom Biological, Inc. August 5, 2022.
[13] https://www.habitatauthority.org/
[14] Biological Assessment Report, Murphy Ranch Little League Field Lighting Report, 7550 Colima Road, Whittier, California 90605, Bloom Biological, Inc. August 5, 2022, section 5.3, page 16.

existing roadway and residential development. There appear to be two steep ephemeral drainages, which lead into the riverine and wetland habitat located offsite to the east of the project as shown in Figure 11. One of the off-site ephemeral drainages appear to have potential connectivity at the southeast corner of the project site. As proposed, the project has the potential for offsite drainage to riparian, riverine, and wetland resources downstream of the site. Therefore, a potential for the project to impact water resources via transportation of sediments and other substances offsite during project construction due to sediments being carried in surface water runoff associated with the digging of the holes for the light poles and trenching for the underground wiring. Once construction is completed the project would not impact the riverine and wetland habitat located offsite to the east of the project.

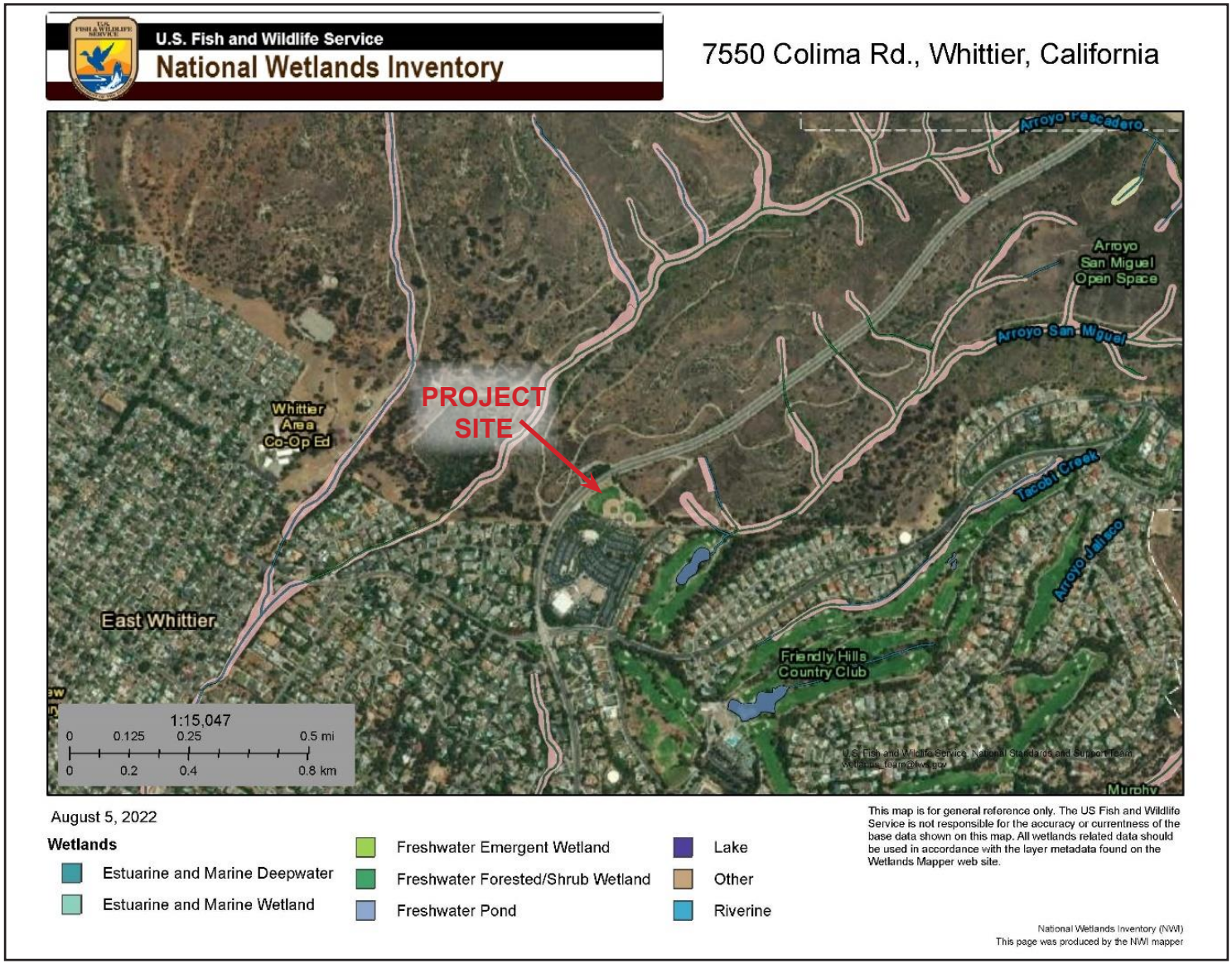
The City would require the contractor to install and maintain all applicable city required short-term construction soil erosion control measures to reduce and minimize soil erosion impacts throughout project grading in compliance with Chapter 8.36 of the Whittier Municipal Code. The contractor's compliance with Chapter 8.36 to reduce and minimize soil erosion impacts during construction would reduce riverine and wetland habitat impacts due to sediment run-off from the site during construction to less than significant. The project would not have any significant operational riparian or other natural community impacts.

c) ***Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filing, hydrological interruption, or other means?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** Please see Section "IV.b" of this MND above.

d) ***Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*** **Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** A wildlife movement survey[15] was conducted within the area to determine if the operation of the proposed baseball fields lights would interfere or impact the movement of existing wildlife within the PHHPA that is adjacent to the project site. Information on and the results of the wildlife movement survey are included in the biology assessment report that is attached in Appendix A.

The wildlife movement survey was conducted on the PHHPA property that is located adjacent to the baseball fields as shown in Figure 12. The area was analyzed for signs of existing and a potential for wildlife movement and habitat linkages. While there are no wildlife corridors or habitat linkages within the project site, wildlife use of the adjacent Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor has been well documented (Haas 2000, Haas and Turschak 2002, Lucas 2010, Spencer 2005). Wildlife and their signs are frequently observed within the immediate vicinity of the project site on the adjacent PHHPA. Mule deer are routinely seen moving through the drainages just northeast of the site and it is assumed that bobcats, coyotes, gray foxes, Virginia opossums, and striped skunks utilize this area as well based on documentation via wildlife cameras that were stationed nearby (BBI Pers. Com. 2022). A permanent wildlife camera operated by the PHHPA is located in the Colima Road underpass along the Arroyo San Miguel Trail approximately 1,100 feet north of the project site. This underpass allows the Arroyo San Miguel Trail to pass beneath Colima Road and provides an access route for wildlife between the north and south areas of the preserve as divided by Colima Road. Wildlife activity recorded for the underpass includes the following species: bobcat; coyote; mule deer; raccoon; desert cottontail; California ground squirrel (Haas and Turschak 2002, Lucas 2010). The most recent study of wildlife that use the Colima Road underpass reported a decrease in bobcat, coyote, and deer activity during the day and an increase at night since the formal opening of the trailhead in 2002 (Lucas 2010). The previous study conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) immediately prior to and after the

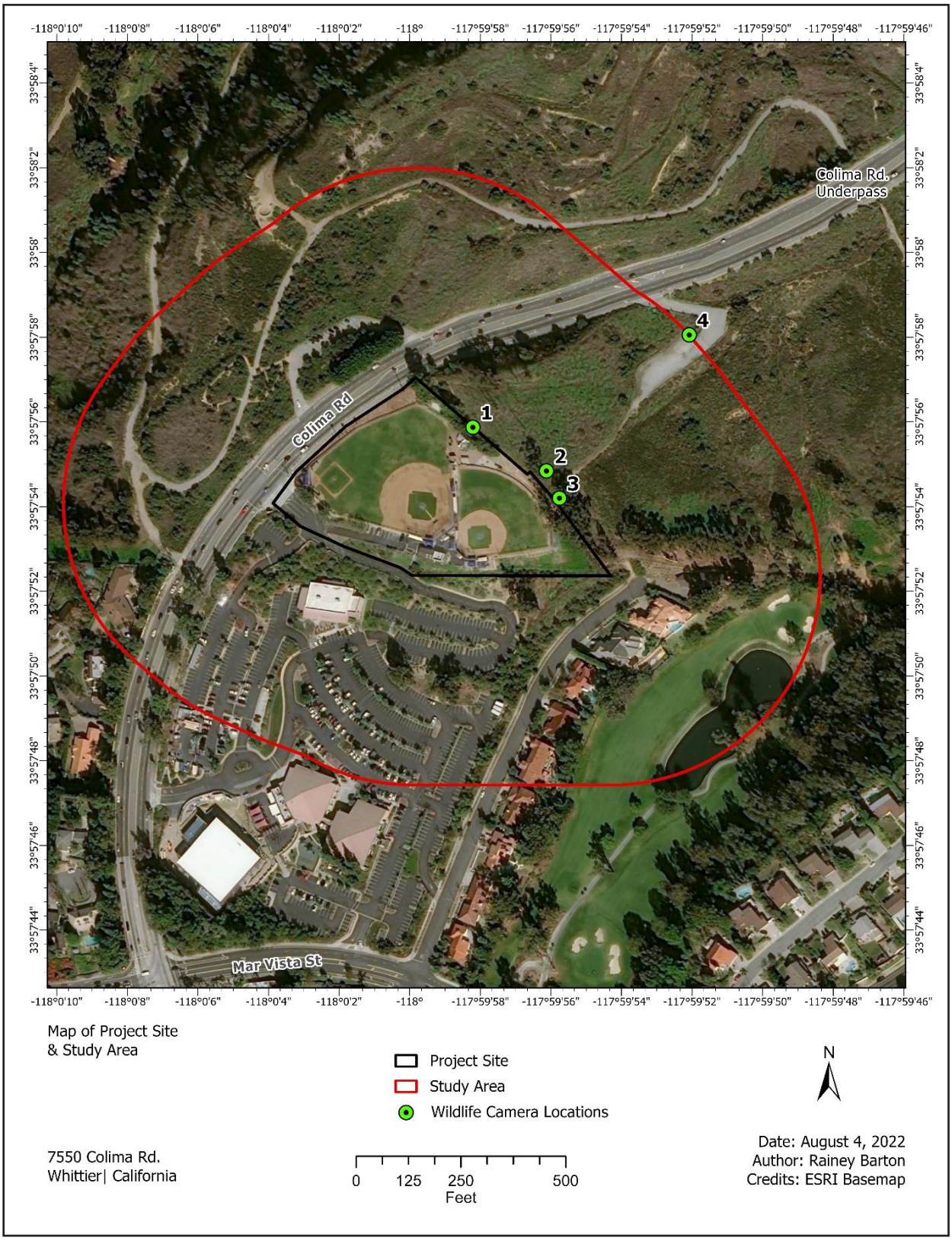
[15] Biological Assessment Report, Murphy Ranch Little League Field Lighting Report, 7550 Colima Road, Whittier, California 90605, Bloom Biological, Inc. August 5, 2022, page 9.



Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

FIGURE 11

National Wetland Inventory Map



Source: Bloom Biological, Inc.

FIGURE 12
Wildlife Movement Study Area and Cameras

opening of the area to recreation in 2002 found that while the rate of use by bobcat, coyote, and deer did not change significantly, coyote and deer activity shifted toward nocturnal use (Haas and Turschak 2002). The PHHPA trails are open to the public seven days a week between dawn and dusk and the shift in wildlife use of the underpass from day to night is suspected to be a result of the increased human activity on the trails following this area being opened to public use.

A total of four wildlife cameras were deployed for the proposed wildlife movement survey and included a total of 23 days and 534 camera-trap hours of observation from June 27 to July 19, 2022. The cameras were operational and captured photographs during all hours of the day. Although no special status wildlife species were detected there was a total of 42 individual detections that included the following seven species: 13 coyotes; 1 domestic cat; 1 striped skunk; 9 desert cottontail rabbits; 2 California ground squirrels; 1 Common Raven; and 15 sparrows. Table 5 shows the results of the camera trappings.

Table 5
Camera Trapping Results

Camera Trap #	Species Encountered (Common Name)	Species Encountered (Scientific Name)
2, 3, 4	Coyote	Canis latrans
3	Domestic cat	N/A
3	Striped skunk	Mephitis
4	Desert cottontail	Sylvilagus audubonii
4	California ground squirrel	Spermophilus beecheyi
2	Common Raven	Corvus corax
3,4	Sparrow	Unknown

Wildlife encounters were primarily documented at night, with the exception of California ground squirrel, sparrows, coyotes, and Common Raven. Of the 13 coyote encounters, 4 were detected during daylight hours.

As proposed, the project has the potential to impact wildlife movement within the PHHPA adjacent to the project. Wildlife adjacent to the project site has been documented to alter their movements due to increased recreational use within the area (Haas and Turschak 2002, Lucas 2010). Additionally, it is known that direct glare from night lighting can affect the orientation of organisms across distances (Reed at al. 1985, Telfer et al. 1987, Beier 1995, Longcore and Rich 2004). Recreation is abundant in the immediate vicinity of the project in the form of a high use trailhead and hiking trails and the existing little league field activities. Increasing the recreational use of the little league field and the noise associated with the use in combination with the new impact of artificial lighting is expected to have an adverse impact on wildlife movement within the existing wildlife corridor.

As discussed in Section “I.d” above of this MND the light poles would range in height from 60-feet to 80-feet and are at the minimum height necessary to properly light the baseball fields safely and reduce back light glare onto the adjacent open space. Lowering the poles would drastically increase the glare in the batter’s eyes as well as other players on the field resulting in a safety issue. Lowering the light poles would increase the glare to the habitat area east of the site because of the aiming angles necessary to light the fields and require the installation of additional lights to achieve the required on-field footcandles to safely play games To minimize back light glare the light source needs to be aimed downward as much as possible. Therefore, the 11 lights are proposed for the height necessary to eliminate glare in the batter’s eyes and minimize back lighting.

The back-spill of the lights to the open space adjacent to the project at 100' from the fence line is calculated to be "0" footcandles. The light design limits the back spill value to approximately 1.35 footcandles. The project lighting would not have any impact to wildlife that use the Colima underpass approximately 1,100 to 1,200 feet east of the project site.

Wildlife that may currently use the Colima underpass in the evening during the baseball season are used to the noise of the motor vehicle traffic on Colima Road adjacent to the underpass and noise from the use of the Murphy Ranch baseball fields. While the project would extend the hours of the use of the baseball fields several hours longer in the evening hours, the extension of the time of noise generated from the use of the baseball fields is not anticipated to significantly impact and change the current use of the underpass by area wildlife due to the distance of the project from the underpass.

The sun on a sunny day measures as much as 120,000 lumens/m2 (120,000 lux), or roughly 11,000 footcandles. The 156K lumens produced by the proposed light fixture is spread out over an area that is determined by factors such as aiming, optic type, mounting height, etc. The actual photometric points of the infield and outfield would vary and average over 50 footcandles in the infield and 30 footcandles in the outfield per the Little League lighting standard. The Little League lighting standard also specifies the field uniformity for the infield at 2:1 and the outfield 2.5:1 (see page 3 of the 2017 Little League Lighting Standard & Safety Audit). The infield range listed between 36 and 63 footcandles corresponds to the High value (63) and the Low value (36) which is the ratio that provides the field uniformity calculation. Field #1 infield uniformity is 1.46, which exceeds the Little League uniformity requirement of 2.0.

The project proposes to use a light spectrum that meets Little League standards. Page 5 of the 2017 Little League Lighting Standard & Safety Audit, section 2.1 Lighting System Construction, A, 6 states, "For an efficient LED system the diodes should have a minimum color temperature of 5700 K and a CRI of 65+". Little league lighting standards do not allow yellow lights or any other color that does not meet their light standard.

The following mitigation measures are recommended to reduce the potential of the project on wildlife within the PHHPA adjacent to and east of the project to less than significant.

Special Status Fauna and Wildlife Movement

Mitigation Measure No. 3 Light Shielding – Prior to the operation of the baseball field lights full cutoff lighting fixtures shall be utilized. The fixtures shall be installed to provide shielding so that little or no light is emitted above the horizontal plane, and less than 10% of the light emitted is within 10 degrees below the horizontal plan (Longcore 2017). To the greatest extent possible, light shall be shielded to only cast upon the little league fields and no areas offsite, particularly offsite open space where wildlife may be affected.

Mitigation Measure No. 4 To ensure minimal operational noise impacts to the open space adjacent to the site no public address system or any other noise equipment shall operate after 8pm.

Mitigation Measure No. 5 Preserve Native Vegetation – During construction all on-site native vegetation shall be preserved and maintained. If landscaping is required, all landscaping shall include predominantly drought tolerant native vegetation and avoid all non-native invasive species. The following website provides a list of all non-native invasive species that shall be

avoided: California Invasive Plant Council Inventory - (https://www.cal-ipc.org/plants/inventory/).

Mitigation Measure No. 6 Invasive Species Education and Control – Prior to the start of construction a biologist with knowledge of invasive plant species and invasive plant species control shall conduct a training program for all construction workers in proper invasive plant control when working on the site. Construction activities shall be conducted in a manner that prevents the introduction, transfer, and spread of aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial invasive plant species from one work site to another. Prior to entering the project area, construction crews shall inspect equipment for invasive plant species and, if any signs of invasive species are found, the equipment shall be cleaned to remove those species. All soil, seeds, or vegetative matter on all construction equipment brought to the project site shall be removed prior to entering the site and removed prior to exiting the work site and/or between each use in different watersheds. The contractor shall notify California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) immediately if an invasive species not previously known to occur within the work site is discovered during project construction.

Mitigation Measure No. 7 Work Area Footprint – Throughout project construction personnel shall minimize the work area footprint and the duration of work at the work site. Construction personnel shall use existing paved roads to access the work area where present. Motor vehicles and construction equipment shall be stored and parked on pavement, existing roads, and previously disturbed areas.

Mitigation Measure No. 8 Litter Control Program – Prior to and throughout project construction a litter control program shall be instituted for the entire project site. All workers shall ensure that their food scraps, paper wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles, and other trash are deposited in covered or closed trash and recycle containers. All garbage shall be removed from the project site at the end of each workday, and construction personnel shall not feed or otherwise attract wildlife to the project site.

Mitigation Measure No. 9 Wildlife avoidance – To avoid harm and harassment of native species, throughout project construction workers and visitors shall not bring pets onto the project site. Open fires (such as barbecues) shall be prohibited.

Mitigation Measure No. 10 Construction Disturbance Minimization – As much as feasible throughout project construction all noise-generating equipment shall be located as far as possible from the environmentally sensitive habitat of the PHHPA adjacent to the project site and shut down when not in use.

Mitigation Measure No. 11 Environmental Education – Prior to the start of construction a biologist with knowledge of mountain lions, Coastal California Gnatcatcher, Golden Eagle, and sensitive bats (collectively referred to as sensitive species) habitat shall conduct a training program for all construction personnel who would be working in close proximity to any potential mountain lion, Coastal California Gnatcatcher, Golden Eagle, or sensitive bat (collectively referred to as sensitive species) habitat. This training shall include information on the ecological significance and conservation status

of the sensitive species, relevant mitigation measures, and safety protocols to follow in the event that a sensitive species is encountered on-site.

Mitigation Measure No. 12 Wildlife Injury and Mortality – If an accidental injury or death of a sensitive species occurs, workers shall immediately inform the approved consulting city biologist or on-site monitor and site supervisor. The approved consulting biologist or on-site monitor shall notify the appropriate contact person at CDFW within 24 hours of the incident. A report shall be prepared and submitted to the City to provide the date and location of the incident, number of individuals taken, the circumstances resulting in the take, and any corrective measures taken to prevent additional take.

Mitigation Measure No. 13 If a sensitive species is observed on-site throughout project construction all activities as safely feasible shall cease until the individual has passively moved through the project site. The on-site project manager, CDFW and City shall be notified immediately for further consultation and proceedings to avoid disturbance, injury, or mortality.

Mitigation Measure No. 14 Mountain Lion – Due to the cryptic nature of the species and the primarily nocturnal behavior, mountain lions tend to keep a safe distance from human activity and are rarely encountered by humans (Dickson et al. 2005). If a mountain lion is observed on the project site during construction hours the best course of action is to stay in groups and allow the feline to pass through the site unharmed. The following measures are also recommended in the event that a mountain lion is encountered on the site during construction:

- No one shall perform work alone: crews shall always work and travel in groups.
- Mountain lions shall not be approached: most mountain lions would try to avoid a confrontation and the mountain lion shall be provided a way to escape if enclosed on the project site.
- No one shall run from a mountain lion: running may stimulate a mountain lion's instinct to chase. Instead, standing and facing the lion is recommended.
- In the case of direct confrontation, it is recommended to make eye contact and avoid crouching down or bending over. Mountain lions do not recognize standing humans as prey. However, a person squatting or bending over may resemble a four-legged prey animal.
- It is recommended that an individual appear larger and intimidating when confronted by a lion. Useful techniques include extending the arms, opening a jacket, or throwing stones, branches, or whatever is within reach without crouching or turning away.
- Speaking firmly in a loud voice and slowly waving the arms would also deter the mountain lion so that the lion does not mistake a person for prey and so that the lion recognizes that you may be a danger to it.

Mitigation Measure No. 15 Coastal California Gnatcatcher – If more than one-year lapses between when the Coastal California Gnatcatcher protocol-level surveys were conducted and construction starts protocol-level surveys shall be repeated prior to the start of construction.

Mitigation Measure No. 16 Nesting Birds - The following measures shall be implemented to mitigate potential impacts to nesting birds:

- All necessary clearing and removal of vegetation for project construction shall be conducted outside of the typical nesting season for birds.
- If any construction activities are scheduled to occur during the nesting bird season (February 1 through September 1), a qualified biologists shall conduct a survey to determine whether there are any active bird nests within 500 ft. of the project site.
- The nesting bird survey shall occur no more than 7-days prior to the start of construction and include a search for nesting birds within 500 ft. of the project site.
- If any active nests are observed, they should be avoided until after all young have fledged from the nest, or work shall be monitored by a biologist to ensure against negative impacts to nesting birds.

Mitigation Measure No. 17 Water Resources - The following measure shall be implemented is recommended to mitigate potential impacts to water resources to less than significant:

- Existing on-site vegetation shall be preserved and maintained to the maximum extent feasible to provide natural barriers to offsite transportation of sediments once construction is completed.

e) ***Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policy or ordinance?*** **No Impact.** None of the existing trees on the project site would be removed or impacted with the installation of the proposed 11 galvanized steel light poles. There are no biological resources that are protected by a city ordinance that would be removed by the project. The project would not impact any local policy or ordinance that protect biological resources on the project site.

f) ***Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*** **Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** The project site is not located within an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. However, as discussed in Section "IV.a" of this MND above the project is located adjacent to the PHPPA. As discussed, the project could conflict with the mission of the PHPPA. Sections "IV.a and IV.d" above discuss the potential impacts by the project to the PHPPA and provide measures to reduce potential impacts to wildlife known to exist within the PHPPA to less than significant.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

a) ***Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?*** **No Impact.** BCR Consulting (BCR) conducted a cultural resources assessment[16] of project site and the areas that are proposed for the installation of the 11 galvanized steel light poles. The complete cultural resources assessment is included as Appendix B of this MND.

[16] Cultural Resources Assessment, Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting Project, City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California, BCR Consulting LLC, June 13, 2022.

The purpose of the Cultural Resources Assessment was to identify all potentially significant cultural resources located within the project site to determine if the project could result in significant impacts to cultural resources, if present. The scope of the Cultural Resources Assessment consisted of a cultural resources records search, additional research, intensive-level pedestrian field survey, Sacred Lands File Search with the Native American Heritage Commission, and a vertebrate paleontological resources assessment.

Aerial photos and historic topographic maps show the project site was never developed or cultivated from 1896 until 1967. The project site is currently owned by the City of Whittier and occupied by the Murphy Ranch Little League. The Murphy Ranch Little League was established at Whittier Boulevard and La Serna in Whittier when developer John Lusk made local land available in 1959. Fundraising began for two new baseball fields in 1965. Funds were secured and the two fields were constructed and in use by April of 1967. Each field originally contained a home and visitor's dugout, home and visitor's bleachers, an announcer/scorekeeper booth behind home plate, backstops, and fencing that remain in place. Aerial photos show that a concrete masonry unit concession and storage building, access roads, parking lots, and shade awnings were added between 2009 and 2012, and electronic scoreboards were added at an unknown date. Both fields retain the original orientation, but some grass has been eliminated in favor of dirt in the infield and behind home plate. The little league field contains a bullpen and batting cage. A third baseball or softball field was added in the left field corner of the Junior League field in about 1993.

Field Survey

During the field survey, BCR Consulting staff carefully inspected the project site and identified the historic-period Murphy Little League Baseball Fields, currently known as the Murphy Ranch Baseball Complex. All features noted above were identified during the field survey. These included the two main fields; a Junior League size (larger) field located to the west, and a Little League size (smaller) field to the east. The original home and visitor's dugout, home and visitor's bleachers, an announcer/scorekeeper booth behind home plate, backstops, and fencing all remained in place at each field. The newer concrete masonry concession and storage building, access roads, parking lots, shade awnings, and electronic scoreboards were also identified. The third baseball or softball field built in about 1993 also remains in place as indicated above. All features were photographed and described in detail on DPR 523 forms that are included in Appendix B and Appendix C of the Cultural Resources Assessment. Vegetation is dominated by grass in the infield and outfield, and the entire property has been landscaped.

Significance Evaluations

During the field survey the historic-period Murphy Little League Baseball Fields and associated features were identified in compliance with CEQA. The criteria to determine the significance of impacts to cultural resources are based on Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines and Guidelines for the Nomination of Properties to the California Register. Properties eligible for listing in the California Register and subject to review under CEQA are those meeting the criteria for listing in the California Register, or designation under a local ordinance.

Significance Criteria

California Register of Historical Resources. The California Register criteria are based on National Register criteria. For a property to be eligible for inclusion on the California Register, one or more of the following criteria must be met:

1. It is associated with the events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the U.S.;

2. It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or U.S. history;

3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, represents the work of a master, possesses high artistic values; and/or

4. It has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, the California Register requires that sufficient time has passed since a resource's period of significance to "obtain a scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resources." (CCR 4852 [d][2]). The California Register also requires that a resource possess integrity. This is defined as the ability for the resource to convey its significance through seven aspects: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The California Register evaluations of the resource identified within the project site boundaries are provided below.

California Register Evaluation

Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Fields.

Criterion 1: Substantial research has not indicated a close association between the subject property and any important events. It is therefore not eligible for the California Register under Criterion 1.

Criterion 2: Research has failed to connect the subject property with the lives of persons important in California's past. It is therefore not eligible for the California Register under Criterion 2.

Criterion 3: The subject property exhibits a style common to little league parks in southern California. It lacks architectural distinction and does not display significant elements of the era during which it was constructed. It does not significantly represent the work of an important creative individual or possess high artistic values. Therefore, the subject property is not eligible under Criterion 3.

Criterion 4: The subject property has not and is not likely to yield information important in prehistory or history and is therefore not eligible for listing under Criterion 4. The subject property and its historic-age structures are therefore recommended not eligible under any of the four criteria for listing on the California Register, and as such are not recommended historical resources under CEQA.

Integrity

As the subject property remains in its original position and is still in use as a little league, it retains integrity of location, setting, and association. Alterations have minimally diminished integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

Recommendations

The historic-period Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Fields within the project site boundaries has been recorded on DPR 523 forms, as required. The resource has been evaluated and recommended not to be eligible for California Register listing eligibility. As a result, the existing Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Fields are not significant under CEQA and no additional cultural resources work or monitoring is necessary for any proposed project activities. Therefore, no significant impacts related to archaeological or historical resources is anticipated and no further investigations are recommended for the proposed project unless:

- The proposed project is changed to include areas not subject to this study;
- The proposed project is changed to include the construction of additional facilities;
- Cultural materials are encountered during project activities.

As proposed, the project would not impact any historical resources.

b) ***Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource as defined in §15064.5?*** **Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** The project site was disturbed in the past with the construction of the baseball fields, concession stand, restrooms and batting cages. Any archaeological resources that were present on the site have either been disturbed during the development of the baseball fields, or if present are deeper than the area previously disturbed areas on the site and thus, protected in place.

The purpose of the Cultural Resources Assessment was to identify all potentially significant cultural resources located within the project site to determine if the project could result in significant impacts to archaeological resources, if present. The scope of the Cultural Resources Assessment consisted of a cultural resources records search, additional research, intensive-level pedestrian field survey, Sacred Lands File Search with the Native American Heritage Commission, and a vertebrate paleontological resources assessment.

The records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University, Fullerton revealed that three cultural resource studies have occurred resulting in the recording of one cultural resource within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site. However, none of the studies has occurred within the boundary of the project site and no cultural resources have been previously identified within the project site. Furthermore, findings were negative during the Sacred Lands File search with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).

Although the Cultural Resource Assessment did not identify any sensitivity for cultural resources within the project site, ground-disturbing activities have the potential to reveal buried deposits not observed on the surface during field walk-over surveys.

The excavation of 11 holes for the installation of the 11 galvanized steel light poles and trenching for the wiring to the light poles could uncover archaeological resources, if present. Therefore, the following mitigation measures are recommended to reduce potentially significant archaeological and Tribal resource impacts to previously undiscovered resources that may be encountered during the digging of the 11 holes and trenches for wiring to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure No. 18 The City shall retain a qualified professional archaeologist who meets U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications and Standards, to conduct an Archaeological Sensitivity Training for construction personnel prior to commencement of excavation activities. The training session shall be carried out by a cultural resource professional with

expertise in archaeology, who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications and Standards. The training session shall include a handout and focus on how to identify archaeological resources that may be encountered during earthmoving activities and the procedures to be followed in such an event, the duties of archaeological monitors, and the general steps a qualified professional archaeologist would follow in conducting a salvage investigation if one is necessary.

Mitigation Measure No. 19 In the event that archaeological resources are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, ground-disturbing activities shall be halted or diverted away from the vicinity of the find so that the find can be evaluated. A buffer area of at least 20 feet shall be established around the find where construction activities shall not be allowed to continue until a qualified archaeologist has examined the newly discovered artifact(s) and has evaluated the area of the find. Work shall be allowed to continue outside of the buffer area. All archaeological resources unearthed by project construction activities shall be evaluated by a qualified professional archaeologist, who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications and Standards. Should the newly discovered artifacts be determined to be prehistoric, Native American Tribes/Individuals shall be contacted and consulted, and Native American construction monitoring shall be initiated. The City shall coordinate with the archaeologist to develop an appropriate treatment plan for the resources. The plan may include implementation of archaeological data recovery excavations to address treatment of the resource along with subsequent laboratory processing and analysis.

Mitigation Measure No. 20 If the qualified archaeologist finds that any cultural resources present meet eligibility requirements for listing on the California Register or the National Register, plans for the treatment, evaluation, and mitigation of impacts to the find would need to be developed. Prehistoric or historic cultural materials that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities include:

- historic artifacts such as glass bottles and fragments, cans, nails, ceramic and pottery fragments, and other metal objects;
- historic structural or building foundations, walkways, cisterns, pipes, privies, and other structural elements;
- prehistoric flaked-stone artifacts and debitage (waste material), consisting of obsidian, basalt, and or cryptocrystalline silicates;
- groundstone artifacts, including mortars, pestles, and grinding slabs;
- dark, greasy soil that may be associated with charcoal, ash, bone, shell, flaked stone, groundstone, and fire affected rocks;

Mitigation Measure No. 21 The City shall retain a qualified professional archaeologist, who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications and Standards to conduct periodic Archaeological Spot Checks beginning at depths below 2' feet to determine if construction excavations have exposed or have a high probability to expose archaeological resources. After the initial Archaeological Spot Check, further periodic checks shall be conducted at the discretion of the qualified archaeologist. If the qualified archaeologist determines that construction excavations have exposed or

have a high probability to expose archaeological artifacts construction monitoring for Archaeological Resources shall be required. The project developer shall retain a qualified archaeological monitor, who would work under the guidance and direction of a professional archaeologist, who meets the qualifications set forth by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications and Standards. The archaeological monitor shall be present during all construction excavations (e.g., grading, trenching, or clearing/grubbing) into non-fill younger Pleistocene alluvial sediments. Multiple earth-moving construction activities may require multiple archaeological monitors. The frequency of monitoring shall be based on the rate of excavation and grading activities, proximity to known archaeological resources, the materials being excavated (native versus artificial fill soils), and the depth of excavation, and if found, the abundance and type of archaeological resources encountered. Full-time monitoring can be reduced to part-time inspections if determined adequate by the project archaeologist.

Mitigation Measure No. 22 The archaeological monitor, under the direction of a qualified professional archaeologist who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications and Standards, shall prepare a final report at the conclusion of archaeological monitoring. The report shall be submitted to the City, the South Central Coastal Information Center and representatives of other appropriate or concerned agencies to signify the satisfactory completion of the project and required mitigation measures. The report shall include a description of resources unearthed, if any, evaluation of the resources with respect to the California Register and CEQA, and treatment of the resources.

c) ***Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?*** **No Impact.** The project site has not been used as a cemetery in the past. In addition, the site is not known to have been used for any activities that have resulted in human remains being present on the property. In the unlikely event that human remains are found during construction, those remains would require proper treatment, in accordance with applicable laws. State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5-7055 describe the general provisions for human remains. Specifically, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 describes the requirements if any human remains are accidentally discovered during excavation of a site. As required by State law, the requirements and procedures set forth in Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code would be implemented, including notification of the County Coroner, notification of the Native American Heritage Commission, and consultation with the individual identified by the Native American Heritage Commission to be the "most likely descendant." If human remains are found during excavation, the excavation must stop in the vicinity of the find and in any area that is reasonably suspected to contain remains adjacent to the find, until the County Coroner has been called, the remains have been investigated, and appropriate recommendations have been made for the treatment and disposition of the remains. Following compliance with State regulations, which detail the appropriate actions necessary in the event human remains are encountered, impacts in this regard would be considered less than significant.

Compliance with Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5-7055 and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, related to protection of human remains, would reduce potential impacts associated with installation of the 11 galvanized steel light poles and trenching activities to a less than significant level.

VI. ENERGY: Would the project:

a) ***Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** Information found in this section, as well as other aspects of the project's energy implications, are discussed in greater detail elsewhere in this MND, including Section VIII (Greenhouse Gas Emissions) and Section XVII (Transportation) of this MND.

Construction-Related Energy Consumption

Construction equipment would be operated on the site to excavate 11 holes to install galvanized steel light poles and dig trenches to place underground wiring to energize the lights. The construction equipment that would be operated to dig the holes, place the steel light poles in the holes backfill the holes and dig the trenches for the wiring include a backhoe, crane, a welder, mixer and a dump truck. The majority of the equipment would likely be diesel-fueled; however, smaller equipment, such as a welder may be electric, gas, or natural gas-fueled. For the purposes of this assessment, it is assumed the construction equipment would be diesel-fueled, due to the speculative nature of specifying the amounts and types of non-diesel equipment that might be used, and the difficulties in calculating the energy, which would be consumed by this non-diesel equipment.

The number of construction workers required to construct the project would vary based on the phase of construction and the activity taking place, which at this time is estimated to be five workers. The transportation fuel required by construction workers to travel to and from the site would depend on the total number of worker trips estimated for the duration of construction activity. A 2007 study by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) estimates the statewide average fuel economy for all vehicle types (automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles) in the year 2020 is 18.78 miles per gallon.[17] Assuming construction worker vehicles have an average fuel economy consistent with the Caltrans study and each construction worker commutes an average of 20 miles a day to and from the site, the maximum 5 workers on-site during the two months of construction is estimated to consume approximately 5 gallons of gasoline a day. Assuming all 5 construction workers are employed at the site for 8 weeks, the fuel used by construction workers commuting to the site is approximately 213 gallons or 11 barrels[18] of gasoline, which is insignificant compared to the 2017 statewide transportation gasoline consumption of 366,820 barrels, which is the latest year that data is available.[19]
Construction equipment fuels (e.g., diesel, gasoline, natural gas) would be provided by local or regional suppliers and vendors. Electricity would be supplied by the local utility provider (e.g., Southern California Edison) via existing electrical connections at the project site. Water primarily for fugitive dust suppression would be supplied by the City of Whittier through existing on-site water facilities.

Electricity used during construction to provide temporary power for lighting would generally not result in a substantial increase in on-site electricity use. Electricity use during construction would be variable depending on lighting needs and the use of electric-powered equipment and would be temporary for the duration of construction activities. The electricity that would be used during construction would be considered negligible.

Energy Conservation: Regulatory Compliance

The project would utilize construction contractors who demonstrate compliance with applicable CARB regulations governing the accelerated retrofitting, repowering, or replacement of heavy-duty diesel on-

[17] 2007 California Motor Vehicle Stock, Travel and Fuel Forecast, California Department of Transportation, Table 1, (2008).
[18] Approximately 42 gallons of crude oil and 20 gallons of gasoline in a barrel.
[19] California 2017 Transportation gasoline consumption – 366,820 barrels; https://www.eia.gov/state/seds/sep_fuel/html/pdf/fuel_mg.pdf

and off-road equipment. CARB has adopted an Airborne Toxic Control Measure to limit heavy-duty diesel motor vehicle idling in order to reduce public exposure to diesel particulate matter and other Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs). Compliance with the above anti-idling and emissions regulations would result in a more efficient use of construction-related energy and minimize or eliminate wasteful and unnecessary consumption of energy.

With respect to solid waste, CALGreen requires 65% of most construction and demolition waste be diverted from a landfill. The project would not generate any construction debris, with the exception of excess dirt that would be left-over from backfilling the holes for the 11 galvanized steel light poles. Any excess dirt can be hauled to the City of Whittier Landfill for free, however the soil must first be tested prior to delivery at the landfill for the following: VOC's and semi- VOC's; Metals; and Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons. The contractor can also haul the dirt to another facility in compliance with any testing or dumping restrictions.

Anticipated Energy Consumption

Once installed, the operation of the lights would increase the demand for electricity. Southern California Edison is the electrical purveyor in the City of Whittier and would provide electricity to the project without any significant impacts to their facilities.

Energy Conservation: Regulatory Compliance

The California Energy Commission (CEC) first adopted the Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings (CCR, Title 24, Part 6) in 1978 in response to a legislative mandate to reduce energy consumption in the state. Part 11 of the Title 24 Building Standards Code is referred to as CALGreen. The purpose of CALGreen is to "improve public health, safety and general welfare by enhancing the design and construction of buildings through the use of building concepts having a positive environmental impact and encouraging sustainable construction practices in the following categories: (1) Planning and design; (2) Energy efficiency; (3) Water efficiency and conservation; (4) Material conservation and resource efficiency; and (5) Environmental quality."[20] As of January 1, 2011, CALGreen is mandatory for the construction of all new buildings in the state. CALGreen establishes mandatory measures for new residential and non-residential buildings. Such mandatory measures include energy efficiency, water conservation, material conservation, planning and design and overall environmental quality.[21] CALGreen was most recently updated in 2016 to include new mandatory measures for residential as well as nonresidential uses; the new measures took effect on January 1, 2017.[22]

The project does not propose the construction of any buildings. Therefore, the project is exempt from CALGreen energy requirements. The proposed sports field lights are also exempt from Title 24 energy standards. Thus, the project would not have any significant energy impacts.

b) ***Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?*** **No Impact.** As stated in Section "VI.a" of this MND above, the project is exempt from Title 24 state energy requirements. The project would not conflict with, obstruct or impact any state or local energy plans.

[20] California Building Standards Commission, 2019 California Green Building Standards Code, (2019).
[21] Ibid.
[22] Ibid.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the project:

a) ***Directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:***

i. ***Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42*.) Less Than Significant Impact.** A preliminary geotechnical interpretive report[23] was prepared for the project and a copy is included in Appendix C of this MND.

The project site, like the majority of southern California, is located in a seismically active area. While the site is in a seismically active area it is not located within a designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone.[24] The nearest known active faults to the project site are part of the Whittier Alt 1 system and located approximately 1.9 kilometers (1 mile) northeast of the project. There are no active or potentially active faults known to exist on the site. While there are faults in the region that could generate moderate to significant ground shaking at the site, the project would not be exposed to any greater geotechnical risks of an earthquake fault rupture than the other existing development in close proximity to the project site. As a result, the potential for primary ground rupture due to faulting is very low to negligible and the project would not be significantly impacted by faulting.

ii. ***Strong seismic ground shaking?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** Because the project site is located in southern California and an active seismic area, there is the potential for ground motion at the site. The light poles and their footings would be designed to withstand a seismic event at the site based on the location and intensity of ground motion known to exist in the area. As discussed in Section "VII.a.i." of this MND above, seismic ground shaking at the site would not significantly impact the light poles, once constructed. The project would not be significantly impacted by seismic ground shaking.

iii. ***Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*** **No Impact.** Liquefaction is a phenomenon when loose, saturated, relatively cohesionless soil deposits lose their shear strength during strong ground motions. The primary factors controlling liquefaction include intensity and duration of ground motion, gradation characteristics of the subsurface soils, in-situ stress conditions, and the depth to groundwater. Liquefaction is typified by a loss of shear strength in the liquefied layers due to rapid increases in pore water pressure generated by earthquake accelerations.

The project site is not located in a state designated liquefaction zone.[25] Groundwater was not observed during the field exploration conducted to a maximum depth of 21.5 feet in each of the four borings.[26] Therefore, the project would not be impacted by liquefaction or seismic ground failure.

iv. ***Landslides?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project site is relatively flat and ranges in elevation from a high of 542.69 feet above mean sea level near the pitcher's mound on the southern baseball field to a low of 538.42 feet in the left field corner of the northern baseball field, an elevation difference of approximately 4 feet.

[23] Preliminary Geotechnical Interpretive Report, Proposed Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting, Assessor's Parcel Number 8291-005-900. 7550 Colima Road, City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California, May 20, 2022.
[24] Ibid, page 5.
[25] https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/.
[26] Preliminary Geotechnical Interpretive Report, Proposed Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting, Assessor's Parcel Number 8291-005-900. 7550 Colima Road, City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California, May 20, 2022, page 1.

There are slopes along all sides of the project site. Colima Road that extends along the west and north project boundary ranges in elevation from approximately 535 feet above mean sea level at the street entrance into the Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball fields to approximately 555 feet above mean sea level near the northern end of the baseball fields. The slope along the south side of Colima Road slopes down to the northern baseball field that is at an elevation of approximately 538 feet above mean sea level. The slopes along the eastern, southern and western sides of the baseball fields slope away from the baseball fields.

There are three galvanized steel light poles proposed at the toe of the slope along the south side of Colima Road. Although there is the potential for a slope failure of the slope along the south side of Colima Road to impact either of the three proposed galvanized steel light poles near the toe of the slope, the slope has existed for many years and does not have a history of slope failure.

A light pole is proposed for the southeast corner of the southern baseball field and near the top of a slope that extends to the southeast. The elevation at this proposed light pole is approximately 540 feet above mean sea level and the land outside the baseball fence at this location slopes in a southeastern direction to an elevation at the toe of the slope of approximately 507 feet above mean sea level. While there is a potential for a slope failure of this slope, the potential impact is less than significant based on the geotechnical report that was prepared for the project. While landslides could impact the project, the potential for a landslide and impact the project is less than significant.

b) ***Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** The City would require the contractor to install and maintain all applicable city required short-term construction soil erosion control measures to reduce and minimize soil erosion impacts throughout project construction in compliance with Chapter 8.36 of the Whittier Municipal Code. The contractor would not be required to prepare a SWPPP because the project would not disturb an area greater than 1 acre. The incorporation of all applicable City required soil erosion control measures by the contractor would reduce potential soil erosion and loss of topsoil impacts to less than significant.

c) ***Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** Based on the geotechnical report the project would not be significantly impacted by unstable soil due to an off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or soil collapse. All construction would have to comply with all applicable requirements of the 2019 CBC and recommendations of the geotechnical report.[27]

d) ***Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** Based on the dominant soils underlying the project site the near surface soils are classified as expansive. Although there are expansive near surface on-site soils the required deep footings for the light poles would reduce and minimize the impacts of the existing expansive soils. As a result, the existing near-surface expansive soils would not impact the construction of the foundations for the 11 galvanized steel light poles. The project would not be significantly impacted by expansive soil.

e) ***Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?*** **No Impact.** The project would not generate any wastewater. Therefore, the project would not have any septic tank or alternative wastewater disposal impacts.

[27] Ibid.

f) ***Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?*** **Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** The project site is located adjacent to the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority lands. The Puente Hills are known to have paleontological resources that date back hundreds of thousands of years spanning several geologic eras.[28]

The project site was disturbed during construction activities to develop the existing baseball fields and associated improvements. Any paleontological resources that may have existed on the site were in all likelihood disturbed during the grading and construction activities to develop the existing baseball fields and improvements. At this time, it is not anticipated the digging of 11 holes ranging from 30" in diameter and 10 feet deep for the 60-foot poles and 42" in diameter and 20 feet deep for the 80-foot poles would disturb or significantly impact any paleontological resources that may be present.

Based on preliminary geotechnical report there are no known unique geologic features on the project site. Undocumented artificial fill materials were encountered throughout much of the site and sandstone of the Pliocene Fernando Formation (Tfu) was encountered in two of the four borings on the site. The Cultural Resources Assessment states, "The geologic units directly underlying this project are mapped as Pliocene siltstone and claystone in the Fernando/Pico Formation, along with nearby alluvial gravel, sand, and silt from the early Holocene and late Pleistocene periods (Dibblee and Ehrenspeck, 2001). Holocene alluvial units are considered to be of high preservation value, but material found is unlikely to be fossil material due to the relatively modern associated dates of the deposits. However, if development into the nearby Holocene units requires any substantial depth of disturbance, or if the project extends to the Pleistocene units, the likelihood of reaching Pleistocene alluvial sediments would increase. Pliocene siltstone/claystone units like the Pico Formation are considered to be of high paleontological sensitivity, and can yield invertebrate fossil specimens and fossil shark teeth.[29] The depth of the holes that would be required for the light poles is 10 feet. Therefore, the required depth of the holes for the light poles would remain within the undocumented artificial fill and/or Pliocene Formation and not extend into the Pliocene formation. As a result, the project is not anticipated to have any significant paleontological or geologic feature impacts.

Although it is not anticipated there are any paleontological resources on the project site and if present, could be uncovered during construction, the implementation of recommended Mitigation Measures No. 18 – 22 in Section "V.b" of this MND above would mitigate potential paleontological impacts to less than significant. Therefore, no additional mitigation measures to mitigate potential paleontological impacts are required.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Would the project:

a) ***Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** "Greenhouse gases" (so called because of their role in trapping heat near the surface of the earth) emitted by human activity are implicated in global climate change, commonly referred to as "global warming." Greenhouse gases contribute to an increase in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere by transparency to short wavelength visible sunlight, but near opacity to outgoing terrestrial long wavelength heat radiation in some parts of the infrared spectrum. The principal greenhouse gases (GHGs) are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, and water vapor. For purposes of planning and regulation, Section 15364.5 of the California Code of Regulations defines GHGs to include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride. Fossil fuel consumption in the

[28] City of Whittier General Plan Update and Housing Element Update, FINAL Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse #2021040762, September 29, 2021, p. 4.7-20.

[29] Cultural Resources Assessment, Murphy Ranch Little League Baseball Field Lighting Project, City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California, BCR Consulting LLC, June 13, 2022, Appendix E.

transportation sector (on-road motor vehicles, off-highway mobile sources, and aircraft) is the single largest source of GHG emissions, accounting for approximately half of GHG emissions globally. Industrial and commercial sources are the second largest contributors of GHG emissions with about one-fourth of total emissions.

California has passed several bills and the Governor has signed at least three executive orders regarding greenhouse gases. AB 32 is one of the most significant pieces of environmental legislation that California has adopted. The major components of AB 32 include:

- Require the monitoring and reporting of GHG emissions beginning with sources or categories of sources that contribute the most to statewide emissions.
- Requires immediate "early action" control programs on the most readily controlled GHG sources.
- Mandates that by 2020, California's GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels.
- Forces an overall reduction of GHG gases in California by 25-40%, from business as usual, to be achieved by 2020.
- Must complement efforts to achieve and maintain federal and state ambient air quality standards and to reduce toxic air contaminants.

Maximum GHG reductions are expected to derive from increased vehicle fuel efficiency, greater use of renewable energy, and increased structural energy efficiency. Additionally, through the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR or the Climate Action Reserve), general and industry-specific protocols for assessing and reporting GHG emissions have been developed. GHG sources are categorized into direct sources (i.e. company owned) and indirect sources (i.e. not company owned). Direct sources include combustion emissions from on-and off-road mobile sources, and fugitive emissions. Indirect sources include off-site electricity generation and non-company owned mobile sources.

Thresholds of Significance

Under CEQA, a project would have a potentially significant greenhouse gas impact if it:

- Generates GHG emissions, directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment, or,
- Conflicts with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted to reduce GHG emissions.

Emissions identification may be quantitative, qualitative or based on performance standards. CEQA guidelines allow the lead agency to "select the model or methodology it considers most appropriate." The most common practice for transportation/combustion GHG emissions quantification is to use a computer model such as CalEEMod, which was used for the GHG analysis for the proposed project.

In September 2010, the SCAQMD Governing Board Working Group recommended a threshold of 3,000 MT CO_2e for all land use types. The 3,000 MT/year CO_2e threshold is used for the greenhouse gas emission analysis for this project. In the absence of an adopted numerical threshold of significance, project related GHG emissions in excess of the guideline level are presumed to trigger a requirement for enhanced GHG reduction at the project level.

Project Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Construction Activity GHG Emissions

Project construction is estimated to take approximately three weeks to dig the holes for the 11 galvanized steel light poles, lift and set the steel light poles into the holes and backfill the holes. It would take approximately five weeks to dig the trenches for the wiring for the steel light poles, string the wire in the trenches from the steel light poles to the electrical control panels and energize the lights for use. Approximately five pieces of construction equipment would be required during the three-week period to install the steel light poles. The operation of five pieces of construction equipment would not exceed the 3,000 MT/year CO_2e greenhouse gas emission threshold. Therefore, the GHG construction emissions would be less than significant.

Operational GHG Emissions

The operational GHG emissions associated with the generation of the electricity required to power the lights will be generated off-site at a Southern California Edison generation facility. Due to the small amount of power required to power the lights during the evening hours would be below the guideline threshold of 3,000 MTY CO_2e suggested by the SCAQMD. Therefore, the GHG operational emissions would be less than significant.

b) ***Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?*** **No Impact.** The Resource Management Element of the Envision Whittier General Plan focuses on natural resources, including the lands, fossil fuels, water, wildlife, plants and trees, air, and other resources obtained from the Earth.[30] Regarding greenhouse gases, the Resource Management Element states, "The primary sources of regional GHG emissions are light-duty vehicles and electric power generation using fossil fuels. Other large contributors are heavy-duty vehicles, petroleum refining, and similar stationary sources. The Gateway Cities Air Quality Action Plan, which the City of Whittier is a member, anticipates a decrease in GHG emissions by approximately 25 percent by 2035 due to increasingly stringent regulations, cleaner truck, train and automobile technology, and the replacement of older vehicles."[31]

The California Governor issued Executive Order S-3-05, GHG Emission, in June 2005, which established the following reduction targets:

- 2010: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 2000 levels
- 2020: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels
- 2050: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels.

In 2006, the California State Legislature adopted AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 that requires CARB to adopt rules and regulations that would achieve GHG emissions equivalent to statewide levels in 1990 by 2020 through an enforceable statewide emission cap, which were phased in starting in 2012.

The project's GHG emissions meet and are less than the threshold for compliance with Executive Order S-3-05. The project's emissions also comply with the goals of AB 32. Because the project's GHG emissions are less than the current interim emissions targets/thresholds established by SCAQMD the project would also meet the reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 mandated by SB-32. Furthermore, the majority of the post 2020 reductions in GHG emissions are addressed via

[30] Envision Whittier General Plan, October 12, 2021, page RM-1.
[31] Envision Whittier General Plan, October 12, 2021, page RM-8

regulatory requirements at the State level and the project would be required to comply with the regulations as they come into effect. Therefore, the project would not impact and conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulations to reduce GHG emissions.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:

a) ***Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project does not propose to transport, use, or dispose any hazardous materials either on or off the site. The only hazardous materials that would be transported and stored on the site includes the temporary storage of hazardous materials (diesel fuel, gasoline, lubricants) for use by the construction contractor to operate and maintain the various pieces of motorized construction equipment required to operate during project construction. It would be the responsibility of the contractor to use and store all hazardous materials in compliance with applicable federal, State, and local laws and regulations during project construction. Once the lights are installed and operational, no hazardous materials would be used or needed. The project would not have any significant impacts associated with the transportation, use or storage of hazardous materials.

b) ***Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** As discussed in Section "IX.a" of this MND above, the hazardous materials that would be used on-site includes diesel fuel, gasoline and lubricants that would be necessary to operate the construction equipment necessary to construct the project. The project contractor would be responsible to store and use all hazardous materials in compliance with all applicable federal, State and local laws to prevent the release of hazardous materials into the environment.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)[32] was prepared for the project. A copy is included in Appendix D. During the preparation of the Phase I ESA the California Department of Conservation Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) maps were reviewed to identify any oil or gas wells exist on or within the vicinity of the project. According to CalGEM, the project is located on the southern portion of the Whittier Oil Field. An oil or gas well (API #0403718778) is reported approximately 120 to 150 feet south of the project site in the parking lot/driveway below the south-central portion of the project site (e.g., below the snack bar/restroom) and is labeled Well #28. Chevron U.S.A. Inc. is the operator of the well and the status is listed as "Idle". The well was discovered in 2010 during grading of the driveways for the adjoining property to the south. The CalGEM documentation states the well has not been abandoned. As result, a steel trench plate was reported to have been placed over the well and the well was paved over for eventual abandonment by Chevron. According to a March 2, 2010 letter from CalGEM to the city of Whittier, the well was previously abandoned in 1988, but the "owner of the property on which the well is located shall is responsible for reabandonment". It is not clear whether the well has been abandoned based on the documentation.

Numerous other off-site wells are noted ranging from west-northwest (past Colima Road) to east of the project site. The status of these wells is "Plugged". Additional oil wells are identified on the larger parcel north, northwest, northeast, and east of the project site. The baseball fields were reportedly developed in the late 1960s. Based on the topography, it is apparent that substantial grading was required to construct the pad for the baseball fields. It is likely that any impacted soils associated with the nearby oil wells were removed during the grading for the baseball fields. Based on the current use

[32] Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of a City Park Property (Baseball Fields Only), 7550 Colima Road, Whittier, California 90605, CW Soils, May 3, 2022.

of the project site for recreational purposes and the proximity of the idle Chevron oil well #28 from the site the well does not represent a recognized environmental condition (REC).

Based on the current conditions on and adjacent to the project site as described in the Phase I ESA the project would not have any significant hazardous material impacts.

c) ***Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?*** **No Impact.** There are no existing or proposed schools within one-quarter mile of the Murphy Ranch Little League fields. The closest schools to the project site include La Serna High School located at 15301 Youngwood Drive and approximately one-half mile south of the project and the Whittier Area Cooperative Special Education Program located at 8036 Ocean View Avenue and approximately one-half mile west of the site. The project would not emit, generate or handle any hazardous or acutely hazardous materials or substances and impact any area schools.

d) ***Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or environment?*** **No Impact.** The Murphy Ranch Little League fields are not listed as a hazardous material site on the "Cortese" list pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The project would not have a hazardous impact to the public or environment per Government Code Section 65962.5.

e) ***For a project located within an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people working or residing in the project area?*** **No Impact.** The closest airport to the project site is the El Monte Airport, which is approximately nine miles north of the project in the City of El Monte. Because the project is more than two miles from the airport the project construction workers would not be impacted by a safety hazard or excessive noise at the airport. The project would not have any safety or noise hazards associated with the El Monte Airport or any other airport in the region.

f) ***Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*** **No Impact.** The City has an adopted Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.[33] The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (Mitigation Plan) was prepared in response to Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). DMA 2000 (also known as Public Law 106-390) requires state and local governments to prepare Mitigation Plans to document their Mitigation Planning process, and identify hazards, potential losses, mitigation needs, goals, and strategies. This type of planning supplements the City's comprehensive emergency management program.

Under DMA 2000, each state and local government must have a federally approved Mitigation Plan to be eligible for hazard mitigation grant funding. This is the third mitigation plan prepared for the City of Whittier. Preceding plans were approved by FEMA in 2005 and 2010.

Colima Road that is located adjacent to and north of the project site and provides ingress and egress to the Murphy Ranch Little League site. A private two-lane paved road extends from Colima Road to the parking area for the baseball fields. Colima Road is a designated evacuation route by the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.[34] The construction activities necessary to install the 11 galvanized steel light poles and their on-going operation would not physically interfere with or impact the use of Colima Road

[33] 2015 Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, December 8, 2015.
[34] Ibid, Map 5-1, page 29.

as a designated evacuation route in the City during an emergency. The project would not impact the city's adopted Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan or Colima Road that is a designated evacuation route.

g) ***Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?*** **Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** As discussed in Section "XX.b" of this MND below the project site is located within a very high fire hazard severity zone in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA). However, the project is not located in a State or Federal Responsibility Area (SRA) very high fire hazard severity zone. As a result, construction workers at the project site could be exposed to wildfire risks, smoke and other pollutants should a wildfire occur. Section "XX.b" of this MND below recommends a measure to reduce potential wildfire impacts to construction workers should a wildfire occur in the project area during construction to less than significant. See Section "XX Wildfire" of this MND for further wildland fire analysis.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project:

a) ***Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?*** **No Impact.** The project includes digging 11 holes and installing 11 galvanized steel light poles to light the two existing baseball fields for evening baseball practice and play. Due to the small amount of dirt that would be generated and the short period of time the dirt would be stored on the ground adjacent to the holes (approximately three days) the potential for the project to discharge sediments should rainfall occur would be minimal and insignificant. The project is scheduled to be constructed within the time period from the fourth quarter of 2022 and completed by the summer of 2023. Rainfall typically occurs during the winter months, which is October to April. While rainfall could occur during the estimated project construction time frame, actual construction from start to finish is estimated to be approximately three weeks. Due to the relatively short construction period once construction starts the rainfall that may occur is not anticipated to cause significant soil erosion at the site. The contractor would not be required to prepare a SWPPP because the project would not disturb an area greater than 1 acre. The project is also not required to prepare a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) because the project would not add or replace 5,000 square feet or more of impervious surface area. The small area of land that would be disturbed to dig the 11 holes for the light poles the project would not have an impact on water quality or surface water discharge.

b) ***Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.*** **No Impact.** The project would require the use of water for dust suppression and control as necessary during project construction to comply with SCAQMD Rule 403 Fugitive Dust. The amount of water that would be required to control dust associated with the dirt that would be piled adjacent to each of the 11 holes would be minimal and not significantly impact existing groundwater supplies. The project would have no impact to groundwater supplies or groundwater recharge.

c) ***Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner, which would:***

i. ***Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?*** **No Impact.** Due to the small scale of the project and the short (three months) construction period the project would not have any impact for soil erosion or siltation either on or off the site. As discussed in Section "X.a" of this MND above, the project contractor would not be required to prepare a SWPPP because the project would not disturb an area greater than 1 acre. Also, the project is also not required to prepare a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) because the project would not add or replace 5,000 square feet or more of impervious surface area. The project would not have any erosion or siltation impacts either on or off the site.

ii. ***Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off site?*** **No Impact.** As discussed in Section "X.b" of this MND above, the project would not increase or change the amount of surface water runoff that is currently generated on the site. The project does not propose any new impervious surface area that would substantially increase the rate or amount of surface water runoff currently generated from the Murphy Ranch Little League baseball fields. The project would not have any on- or off-site flooding impacts.

iii. ***Create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?*** **No Impact.** As stated above in Section "X.c.ii" of this MND above, the project would not significantly increase the amount of storm water runoff that is currently generated from the Murphy Ranch Little League baseball fields. The existing storm drain system that serves the project site would continue to serve the site and the improvements proposed by the project would not have any impact on the existing storm water collection and discharge facility. The installation and operation of the proposed 11 steel light poles would not provide or generate any sources of polluted runoff.

iv. ***Impede or redirect flood flows?*** **No Impact.** Please see Section "X.c.ii." of this MND above.

d) ***In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation.*** **No Impact.** According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the project site is located in Flood Zone D and not in a Special Flood Hazard area.[35] Figure PSNH-6 of the Public Safety, Noise and Health Element of the Whittier General Plan shows that the project site is not located in an inundation area.

The project is more than 17 miles northeast from the Pacific Ocean and over 500 feet above mean sea level. Due to the distance and the elevation of the site from the Pacific Ocean the project would not be exposed to or be impacted by a tsunami. There are no bodies of water adjacent to the project site. The closest body of water to the project is a man-made pond in the golf course of the Friendly Hills Country Club and approximately 500 feet southeast of the site. The man-made pond is approximately 110 feet lower in elevation than the project site. The pond would not impact the site due to a seiche. As stated in Section "X.d." above of this MND the project site is not in a flood zone. The project would not be impacted by a flood, tsunami or seiche. In addition, the project would not be impacted by a release of pollutants associated with a flood, tsunami or seiche.

e) ***Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.*** **No Impact.** There are no activities associated with the installation of 11 galvanized steel light poles that would conflict with or obstruct the implementation of a water quality control plan. The project would not conflict with or obstruct water quality control measures mandated by the state.

As discussed in Section "X.a" of this MND above, the project contractor would not be required to prepare a SWPPP because the project would not disturb an area greater than 1 acre. The project is also not required to prepare a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) because the project would not add or replace 5,000 square feet or more of impervious surface area. The project would not have any water quality impacts.

35 https://msc.fema.gov/portal/availabilitySearch?addcommunity=060169&communityName=WHITTIER,%20CITY%20OF#searchresultsanchor.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING: Would the project:

a) ***Physically divide an established community?*** **No Impact.** The project proposes to install 11 galvanized steel poles and lights ranging in height from 60-feet to 80-feet to allow evening baseball practice and games. The installation and operation of the 11 galvanized steel light poles would occur on the Murphy Ranch Little League baseball fields and not physically divide the existing land uses that are adjacent to and surrounding the site.

b) ***Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?*** **No Impact.** The project site is designated Open Space land use by the Envision Whittier General Plan. The Envision Whittier General Plan states, "Whittier's open spaces include parks, recreation facilities, urban trails, golf courses, and natural habitats".[36] The applicable Intent and Character features of the open space land use include:

- Designates areas for active recreation use by all members of the public;
- Improved open space with or without recreation fields and courts, play spaces, community buildings, public swimming pools and trail amenities";
- Generally, unimproved open space areas are established for purposes of preservation of natural resources, managed production of resources, outdoor recreation, health and safety, and scenic landscape protection.[37]

The project is a permitted use in the Open Space land use classification and the proposed installation of the 11 galvanized steel light poles and lights would not have any land use conflicts with the existing land uses adjacent to and surrounding the site. The project would not have any significant land use impacts.

Zoning

The project site is zoned O-S Open Space. Chapter 18.09 OS Open Space Zone of the Whittier Municipal Code provides the regulations for development in the Open Space zone. Section 18.09.040 Permitted Uses states, "Land shall be essentially unimproved and devoted, used or utilized for the preservation of natural resources, plant and animal life, and low impact recreational uses." While the existing baseball fields are not specifically listed as a permitted use by Section 18.09.040, the existing baseball fields are not listed as a prohibited use by Section 18.09.060.

Per Section 18.09.040 the existing baseball fields are considered a low impact recreational use the existing land use is a permitted use. The proposed lighting of the baseball fields would not change the low impact recreational use of the site, therefore the project is consistent with and allowed by the O-S Open Space zone.

The project would not have any significant land use or zoning impacts.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

a) ***Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?*** **No Impact.** The State of California Mining and Geology Board classify land in California on the availability of mineral resources. There are four Mineral Resources Zone (MRZ) designations in California for the classification of sand, gravel, and crushed rock resources

[36] Envision Whittier, General Plan, October 12, 2021, page LU & CC–44.
[37] Ibid.

(MRZ-1, MRZ-2, MRZ-3, MRZ-4). Areas classified MRZ-1 are areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence. Areas classified MRZ-2 are areas where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present or where it is judged that a high likelihood for their presence exists. Areas that are classified MRZ-3 are areas containing mineral deposits the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data. Areas classified MRZ-4 are areas where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other MRZ-zone.[38] The project site is located in an area that is designated MRZ-4.[39] Because there are no known mineral resources on the site and no existing mineral resource mining or extracting activities the project would not impact any mineral resources of value to the region or the residents of the state. The project would not have any mineral resource impacts.

b) ***Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?*** **No Impact.** As discussed in Section "XII.a" of this MND above, the project site is not located within an area of known mineral deposits. Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of and not impact any locally important mineral resources.

XIII. NOISE: Would the project result in:

a) ***Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies.*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** The Murphy Ranch Little League baseball fields are typically used year-around for baseball practice and games. The noise that is generated at the site includes noise that is typically associated with little league baseball practice and games.

Section 8.32.080 of the Whittier Municipal Code, (Exemptions and Waivers) exempts specific activities from noise level regulations. Section 8.32.080(I) excludes permitted construction during daytime hours.

Whittier Municipal Code Chapter 15.06.010 limits construction to the following:

A. Work authorized under or requiring a building or other permit shall take place only between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, unless authorized in writing by the city manager or necessitated to protect life and/or property.
B. Use of heavy equipment (dump trucks, graders, jack hammers, etc.) are only permitted Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
C. No work is permitted on Sundays or federal holidays.
D. Work, as used in the section, includes all preparation, cleanup and material deliveries.

The project contractor would have to obtain a building permit prior to the start of any on-site construction. All construction would have to be consistent with and only occur during the days and hours listed in Whittier Municipal Code Chapter 15.06.010.

The project would dig holes for the 11 galvanized steel light poles. A crane would lift the light poles into position and the holes would be filled with concrete and then backfilled with dirt. A trenching machine would dig the trenches to each light pole to install underground wiring from the light poles to the electrical panel near the concession area behind the baseball fields. The equipment that would be

[38] City of Whittier General Plan Update and Housing Element Update, FINAL Environmental Impact Report, September 29, 2021, page 4.12-1.
[39] Generalized Mineral Land Classification of Orange County, California, Aggregate Resources Only, R.V. Miller, 1994, Plate 1.

used to complete these operations would not generate a significant temporary increase in the ambient noise level either on the project site or the immediate area surrounding the site. Once the light poles and lights are installed and operational there would not be any permanent increase in the ambient noise level on the project site. The project would not have any significant temporary or permanent noise level increase.

b) ***Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?*** **No Impact.** The project would require the contractor to dig holes to install 11 galvanized steel light poles. The residence closest to the light pole that would be bored is located on Villaverde Drive and approximately 160 feet southeast of the closest light pole. All other residents along Villaverde Drive would be further from any of the other steel light poles that are proposed for the baseball fields. None of the residents closest to the areas where the construction of the light pole would occur would feel any vibration of ground borne noise impacts due to the distance of the residents from the areas where the holes would be dug.

c) ***For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?*** **No Impact.** As discussed in Section "IX.e" of this MND above, the closest airport to the site is the El Monte Airport, which is approximately nine miles north of the project site. Because the project is more than two miles from the airport the project would not expose construction workers to excessive noise levels at the airport. The project would not have any noise level impacts.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING: Would the project:

a) ***Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example through extension of roads or other infrastructure*)? No Impact.** The installation and operation of the proposed 11 athletic field lights would not induce a growth in the population in Whittier or any other area outside of the city. The project would not have any impact on the city's population or growth.

b) ***Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*** **No Impact.** There are no houses on the Murphy Ranch Little League site. Therefore, no houses would be demolished and no residents would be displaced and require replacement housing elsewhere in Whittier. The project would not impact housing or displace any residents.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES:

a) ***Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:***

i. ***Fire protection?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** The County of Los Angeles Fire Department provides fire protection services for the City of Whittier, including the project site. The closest fire station to the project site is Fire Station 59 that is located at 10021 Scott Avenue and approximately 1.4 miles to the south. While the project could require fire protection services during construction and installation of the lights, it is anticipated the need for fire protection services during construction would be minimal. Once the lights are installed and operational there would be an insignificant need for fire protection services. The County of Los Angeles Fire Department has sufficient personnel to serve the project during construction and the

operations of the lights without any significant impact to its ability to continue to provide an adequate level of fire protection service to the community. The impact by the project to fire protection services would be less than significant.

ii. ***Police protection?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** The City of Whittier Police Department provides police protection services for the City of Whittier, including the project site. The police headquarters are located at 13200 Penn Street and approximately 2 miles northwest of the project site. The project could require police services during construction of the lights to respond to vandalism, theft or other police emergencies. Once the lights are installed and operational the project would not require police services. While the project could require police services during construction the need for police services would be insignificant and not impact the Department's ability to continue to provide an adequate level of police protection to the community. The impact by the project to police services would be less than significant.

iii. ***Schools?*** **No Impact.** The project would not generate any students and as a result would not impact any schools.

iv. ***Parks?*** **No Impact.** The project proposes to install and operate 11 galvanized steel light poles and light fixtures at two existing baseball fields. The installation and operation of the lights would have a positive impact on the baseball activities at the site by allowing evening and nighttime use of the existing baseball fields 7 days a week year-around. The project would not change the current use of the baseball fields other than to allow baseball practice and games later in the evenings during the league season. The project would not have an impact on parks.

v. ***Other public facilities?*** **No Impact.** There are no public facilities or services that would be impacted by the project.

XVI. RECREATION

a) ***Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?*** **No Impact.** The project would not impact recreation facilities in the City. Please see Public Services Section "XV.a.iv" of this MND above.

b) ***Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*** **No Impact.** As discussed in Public Services Section "XV.a.iv" of this MND above, the project proposes to install 11 galvanized steel light poles with lights at two existing baseball fields to allow use of the fields until 10:00 PM 7 days a week year-around. The baseball field lights would be turned off at 10 pm. A dimmer switch would be installed to allow the lights to be reduced to 50 percent of the full light intensity for ten minutes and further reduced to 30 percent for five minutes to allow players, parents and spectators to safely get to their cars before the lights are completely shut-off at 10:15 pm. The project does not propose to construct any new recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of any existing recreational facilities that would have an adverse physical impact on the environment. The project would not have an impact on recreational facilities.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION: Would the project:

a) ***Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?*** **No Impact.** The project would generate traffic by the five workers that would commute to the site on a daily basis during the two months of construction. Once the lights are installed and operational the project would not generated any traffic. The project

would not conflict with or impact any transportation plan, transit, roadway, bicycle or pedestrian facilities adjacent to the project site or that serve the site.

b) ***Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?*** **No Impact.** California Senate Bill 743 (SB 743) directs the State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to amend the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines for evaluating transportation impacts to provide alternatives to Level of Service that "promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the development of multimodal transportation networks, and a diversity of land uses." The 2020 CEQA Guidelines, specifically Section 15064.3, recommends the use of Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) as the primary metric for the evaluation of transportation impacts associated with land use and transportation projects. In general terms, VMT quantifies the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project or region. All agencies and projects in California are required to utilize CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 that requires VMT to evaluate transportation impacts as of July 1, 2020.

The CEQA Guidelines allow a lead agency the discretion to establish the VMT methodologies and thresholds, provided there is substantial evidence to demonstrate that the established procedures promote the intended goals of the legislation. Where quantitative models or methods are unavailable, Section 15064.3 allows agencies to assess VMT qualitatively using factors such as availability of transit and proximity to other destinations. The Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA (State of California, December 2018) ["OPR Technical Advisory"] provides technical considerations regarding methodologies and thresholds with a focus on office, residential, and retail developments as these projects tend to have the greatest influence on VMT. The OPR Technical Advisory does not provide information to determine project construction VMT.

The project is screened out from the requirements to prepare a VMT analysis because of the low volume of daily traffic that project construction would generate. As a result, the project would not conflict with or impact CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b).

c) ***Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?*** **No Impact.** The project does not propose any changes or improvements to the existing access road to the site from Colima Road. The existing access road from Colima Road to the project site would continue to serve the site in its existing condition both during construction and once the project is completed and operational. The project would not change or cause any hazards due to a geometric design feature of the existing access road to the site.

d) ***Result in inadequate emergency access?*** **No Impact.** As discussed in Section "IX.f" of this MND above, Colima Road is adjacent to and provides vehicular access to the project site and a designated evacuation route by the City's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The construction activities necessary to install the 11 galvanized steel light poles and their on-going operation would not physically interfere with vehicular access to the project site from Colima Road. Emergency vehicles would continue to have suitable access to the site for emergency response during both project construction and operation of the baseball field lights. The project would not have any impact to emergency vehicle access to the site.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the

landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

i. **Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1 (k). Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.**

As required by AB 52, the City mailed letters to nine Native American Indian Tribes that are on record with the City and may have cultural resources associated with the project site. The Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation contacted the City and requested consultation. Because the project site lies within the ancestral tribal territory of the Kizh Nation, tribal cultural resources could exist on the site the following mitigation measures are recommended to reduce potential impacts to Tribal resources, if present.

Mitigation Measure No. 23 Prior to any ground disturbance for the proposed project, the City of Whittier shall ensure that the project applicant retains the services of a Tribal monitor approved by the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation for Native American monitoring during ground-disturbing activities. This provision shall be included on proposed project plans and specifications. Ground disturbing activities are defined by the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation as activities that may include, but are not limited to, pavement removal, pot-holing or augering, grubbing, tree removals, boring, grading, excavation, drilling, and trenching, within the project area. The project site shall be made accessible to the monitor(s) provided adequate notice is given to the construction contractor and that a construction safety hazard does not occur. The monitor(s) shall be approved by the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation and shall be present on site during the construction phases that involve any ground-disturbing activities. The monitor(s) shall possess Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) certification. In addition, the monitor(s) shall be required to provide insurance certificates, including liability insurance, for any tribal cultural resources and/or archaeological resource(s) encountered during grading and excavation activities pertinent to the provisions outlined in California Public Resources Code (PRC) Division 13, Section 21083.2 (a) through (k).

If evidence of any tribal cultural resources is found during ground-disturbing activities, the monitor(s) shall have the capacity to halt construction in the immediate vicinity of the find to recover and/or determine the appropriate plan of recovery for the resource. The recovery process shall not unreasonably delay the construction process.

Construction activity shall not be contingent on the presence or availability of a monitor, and construction may proceed regardless of whether or not a monitor is present on site. The monitor shall complete daily monitoring logs that would provide descriptions of the day's activities, including construction activities, locations, soil, and any cultural materials identified. The on-site monitoring shall end when the project site grading and excavation activities are completed

or when the monitor has indicated that the site has a low potential for tribal cultural resources and/or archaeological resources.

Mitigation Measure No. 24 All tribal cultural resources and/or archaeological resources unearthed by proposed project construction activities shall be evaluated by the qualified archaeologist and Native American monitor approved by the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation. Upon discovery of any archaeological resources, construction activities shall cease in the immediate vicinity of the find until the find can be assessed. Construction work shall be permitted to continue on other parts of the project site while evaluation and, if necessary, additional evaluation and/or preservation measures takes place CEQA Guidelines Section15064.5[f]). If the resources are Native American in origin, the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation shall coordinate with the landowner regarding treatment and curation of these resources. If a resource is determined by the qualified archaeologist to constitute a "historical resource" or "unique archaeological resource", time allotment and funding sufficient to allow for implementation of avoidance measures shall be made available through coordination between the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation and the project applicant. The treatment plan established for the resources shall be in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(f) for historical resources and California PRC Section 21083.2(b) for unique archaeological resources. Preservation in place (i.e., avoidance) shall be the preferred manner of treatment. If preservation in place is not feasible, treatment may include implementation of archaeological data recovery excavations to remove the resource along with subsequent laboratory processing and analysis. Any historic archaeological material that is not Native American in origin shall be curated at a public, non-profit institution with a research interest in the materials, such as the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County or the Fowler Museum, if such an institution agrees to accept the material. If no institution accepts the archaeological material, they shall be offered to a local school or historical society in the area for educational purposes.

Implementation of the recommended mitigation measures would reduce potential tribal cultural resource impacts to less than significant.

ii) **A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** As discussed in Section "XVIII.a.i." of this MND above, the project could significantly impact tribal resources if present. The implementation of the recommended mitigation measures would reduce potential impacts to tribal resources to less than significant.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project:

a) ***Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities,***

the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects? **No Impact.** The City of Whittier provides potable water to the project site for the existing restrooms, drinking fountains and landscape irrigation. The project would not require or consume any water, generate any wastewater or require other utilities such as natural gas or telecommunications during the construction of the baseball field lights. The project would also not impact any storm drain facilities as discussed in Section "X.c.iii" of this MND above. The project would require electricity to power the lights once they are energized and become operational. As discussed in Section "VI.a" of this MND above, Southern California Edison has adequate capacity to provide the electricity necessary to power the lights without impacting their existing facilities. The project would not have any utility impacts.

b) ***Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?*** **No Impact.** As discussed in Section "XIX. a" of this MND above, the project would not consume any water. Therefore, the project would not impact the city's water supply that provides potable water to the project site.

c) ***Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*** **No Impact.** Please see Section "XIX.a" of this MND above.

d) ***Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?*** **Less Than Significant Impact.** As discussed in Section "VI.a" of this MND above the project would generate excess dirt to dig the holes for the 11 galvanized steel light poles. Excess dirt can be hauled to the City of Whittier landfill for free, however the soil must first be tested prior to delivery at the landfill for the following: VOC's and semi- VOC's; Metals; and Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons. The contractor can also haul the dirt to another facility in compliance with any testing or dumping restrictions. Due to the small quantity of dirt that would be generated by the project, which is estimated to be less than 100 cubic yards, the project would not have any solid waste impact to the City landfill or any other landfill.

e) ***Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*** **No Impact.** The City of Whittier complies with all federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. As discussed in Section "XIX.d" of this MND above, the project would not generate any solid waste that would have any significant solid waste impacts.

XX. WILDFIRE: If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

a) **Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? No Impact.** As discussed in Section "IX.f" of this MND above the project does not propose to construct any improvements that would impair or impact Colima Road, which is a designated emergency evacuation route. The project would also not impact the City's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, which is an emergency evacuation plan for an emergency response.

b) ***Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?*** **Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** The project site is located within a very high fire hazard severity zone in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA).[40] However, the project is not located in a State or Federal Responsibility Area (SRA) very high fire hazard severity zone.[41] As a result, construction workers at the project site could be exposed to wildfire risks, smoke and other

[40] https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/5854/whittier.pdf
[41] https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/

pollutants should a wildfire occur. The following mitigation measure is recommended to reduce potential wildfire impacts to construction workers.

Mitigation Measure No. 25 Should a wildfire occur during project construction the contractor shall notify the construction workers to leave and not return until the contractor deems it is safe to return to the site.

c) ***Reguire the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?*** **No Impact**. The project would not be required to install or maintain any roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities to protect the project and the immediate area from a wildfire.

d) **Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result or runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes? Less Than Significant Impact.** There are no slopes adjacent to the site that would expose construction workers or the proposed 11 galvanized steel light poles to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result or runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. The project would not have any significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result or runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage change impacts.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

a) ***Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?*** **Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** The project has the potential to substantially impact special status wildlife species known to exist on the PHHPA property adjacent to the project site. The project also has the potential to impact aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, tribal cultural resources, and wildlfires on the site as discussed in Sections “I”, “III”, “IV”, “V”, “VII”, “IX”, “XVIII” and “XX” of this MND. However, mitigation measures are recommended in Sections “I”, “III”, “IV”, “V”, “VII”, “IX”, “XVIII” and “XX” of this MND to reduce potential aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, tribal cultural resources and wildfires impacts to less than significant.

b) ***Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)*** **No Impact.** The City of Whittier did not identify any projects that, along with the proposed project, could have cumulative impacts. Therefore, the project would not have any cumulative environmental impacts.

c) ***Does the project have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? Less Than*** **Significant Impact.** There are no significant impacts associated with the proposed project that would cause substantial adverse effects and significantly impact human beings either directly or indirectly.